

## Summary

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#### In this Issue

**31/07/08** | **Tasmanian State and Regional Indicators** provides a summary of Tasmanian statistical information and is released on a quarterly basis. New topics in this release are: **Education, Housing & Construction and Transport** plus a feature article on **Adult Literacy in Tasmania**. Crime and Justice, Health and Environment are topics planned for the next release in October 2008.



#### Labour

**31/01/08** | Includes: **Labour Force Status, Employment, Unemployment, Underemployment, Hours Worked, Average Weekly Earnings, Wage Price Index, Wage and Salary Earner Incomes**



#### Economic Activity

**31/01/08** | Includes: **Gross State Product, Capital Expenditure, Consumer Price Index, House Price Index, Industry Value Added, Housing Finance, International Trade, Motor Vehicle Sales**



#### Industry

**31/01/08** | Includes: **Industry Value Added, Agriculture, Mining, Manufacturing, Retail Trade, Tourist Accommodation, Building Approvals and Activity, Land Use, Business Counts**



#### Population

**30/04/08** | Includes: **Population change, Components of change, Natural Increase, Births, Deaths, Life expectancy, Net Migration, Age structure, Population distribution, Country of birth, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population**



#### Family and Community

**30/04/08** | Includes: **Family composition, Marriages and Divorces, Labour force status of parents, Child care, Contact arrangements, Children's Participation in sport, cultural and leisure activities, Social Involvement, Voluntary Work, Household type of Internet connection**



#### Household Economic Resources

**30/04/08** | Includes: **Household income, Source of income, Home Ownership, Rent and Housing loan repayments, Household Expenditure, Household assets and liabilities**



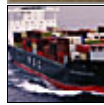
#### Education

**31/07/08** | Includes: **Schools, School students, School teachers, Higher education students, VET students, Apprentices & trainees, Age participation rates, Apparent retention rates, Students achieving literacy and numeracy benchmarks, Educational attainment**



#### Housing and Construction

**31/07/08** | Includes: **Dwelling structure, Average household size, Building approvals, Property sales, Public housing, Employment in the construction industry**



#### Transport

**31/07/08** | Includes: **Roads, Motor vehicles, Motor vehicle usage, Drivers' licenses, Persons killed or injured in road crashes, Method of travel to work, Bus passenger movements, Air passenger movements, Bass Strait ferry movements, Freight activity**



#### Feature Article

**31/07/08** | **Adult Literacy in Tasmania, 2006:** Examines the Tasmanian results from the 2006 Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey, which collected and assessed information on the literacy skills of Australians across a range of literacy domains: prose literacy; document literacy; numeracy; and problem solving.

## In this Issue

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### IN THIS ISSUE

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**Tasmanian State and Regional Indicators** (cat. no. 1307.6) provides a summary of Tasmanian statistical information and is released on a quarterly basis. Topics this issue: **Education**, **Housing and Construction**, and **Transport**, plus a **Feature Article** on Adult Literacy in Tasmania.

Further topics will be presented with each release, according to the schedule below:

#### Proposed Topics

Crime & Justice, Health,  
Environment

#### Planned release date

31 October, 2008

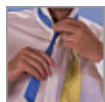
Explanatory Notes are not included in the form found in other ABS publications. Please see the Explanatory Notes contained in related ABS publications (links to source documents are provided in the summary tables).

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the ABS on 1300 135 070 or email [client.services@abs.gov.au](mailto:client.services@abs.gov.au).

If you have any comments or feedback about this product please email [tasmania.statistics@abs.gov.au](mailto:tasmania.statistics@abs.gov.au).

## Labour

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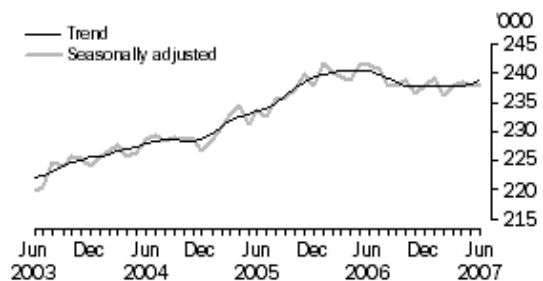
### LABOUR

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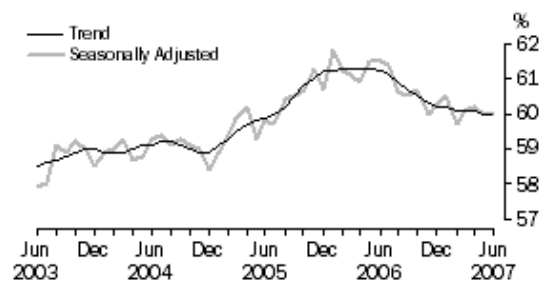
The annual average size of the labour force in Tasmania continued to grow steadily over the years 2002-03 to 2005-06, but decreased again slightly in 2006-07 to 238,000. The participation rate slowed from 60.9% in 2005-06 to 60.3% in 2006-07.

**LABOUR FORCE, Tasmania**

**PARTICIPATION RATE, Tasmania**



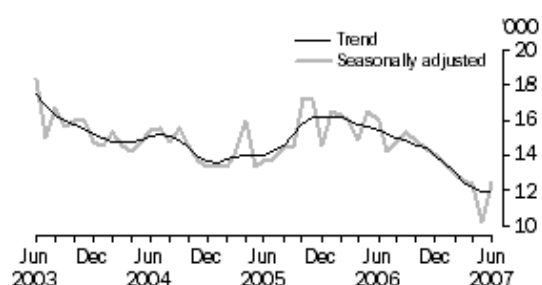
Source: Labour Force, Australia, Spreadsheets (cat. no. 6202.0.55.001)



Source: Labour Force, Australia, Spreadsheets (cat. no. 6202.0.55.001)

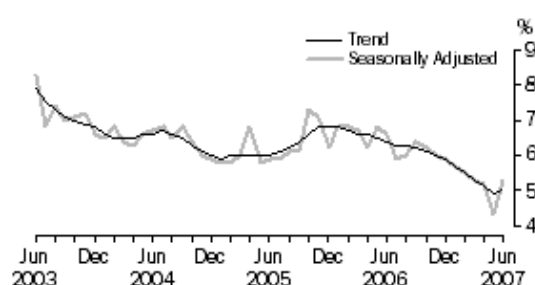
The number of people employed continued to grow, but increased by only 0.8% from 2005-06 to 2006-07. The number of people in full-time work also continued to increase, reaching 154,100 in 2006-07.

### UNEMPLOYED PERSONS, Tasmania



Source: Labour Force Australia, Spreadsheets (cat. no. 6202.0.55.001)

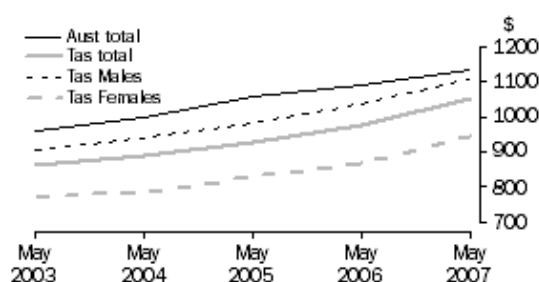
### UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, Tasmania



Source: Labour Force, Australia, Spreadsheets (cat. no. 6202.0.55.001)

Tasmania's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell to an historically low level of 4.3% in May 2007. The Australian unemployment rate reached 4.3% at the same time. This was the lowest level of unemployment recorded for Tasmania since the current series began in 1978.

### AVERAGE WEEKLY TOTAL EARNINGS, Full-time adults: trend



Source: Average Weekly Earnings, Australia (cat. no. 6302.0)

In May 2007, the average weekly total earnings figure for all employed Tasmanians was \$1,050.50, an increase of 7.8% on the May 2006 figure. In the same period, the average weekly total earnings figure for full-time employed Tasmanian males was \$1,107.40, and for females was \$942.70. The Australian figure for all full-time employed adults was \$1,134.30 in May 2007.

### LABOUR , Summary table, Tasmania(a)(b)

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
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## LABOUR FORCE

Total labour force ('000)	220.2	225.5	230.2	238.4	238.0
Employed full-time ('000)	139.2	146.0	148.0	151.1	154.1
Employed part-time ('000)	62.0	64.2	67.9	71.6	70.4
Unemployment rate	8.6%	6.8%	6.2%	6.6%	5.7%
Long term unemployment rate	2.0%	2.0%	1.6%	2.1%	nya
Participation rate	58.3%	58.9%	59.3%	60.9%	60.3%
Labour force underutilisation rate - persons	13.5%	13.4%	13.4%	13.4%	nya
Extended labour force underutilisation rate - persons	15.4%	14.3%	14.9%	14.7%	nya
Employment growth - annual change	1.6%	4.5%	2.7%	3.2%	0.8%
Job vacancies ('000)	2.0	1.7	1.9	2.4	2.3

## WORKING HOURS - ALL EMPLOYEES

Average actual hours worked per week, full-time (hrs)	37.6	38.2	38.0	36.2	36.5
Average actual hours worked per week, part-time (hrs)	13.7	15.0	15.1	14.7	14.5

## OCCUPATION AND INDUSTRY

Employed in higher skilled occupations(c)('000)	103.5	108.3	114.5	116.5	121.5
Employed in service industries ('000)	155.1	155.8	154.9	157.5	157.7
Employed in manufacturing industries ('000)	22.1	22.4	23.4	22.8	21.9

## AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS(d) & WAGE PRICE INDEX

Full-time adult ordinary time earnings, trend	\$830.40	\$853.80	\$892.80	\$937.50	\$1 009.30
Full-time adult total earnings, trend	\$861.50	\$888.20	\$930.10	\$974.30	\$1 050.50
Wage Price Index - all sectors index number	96.8	100.0	104.1	108.4	113.1
Wage Price Index - all sectors percentage change	3.3%	3.3%	4.1%	4.1%	4.3%

nya not yet available

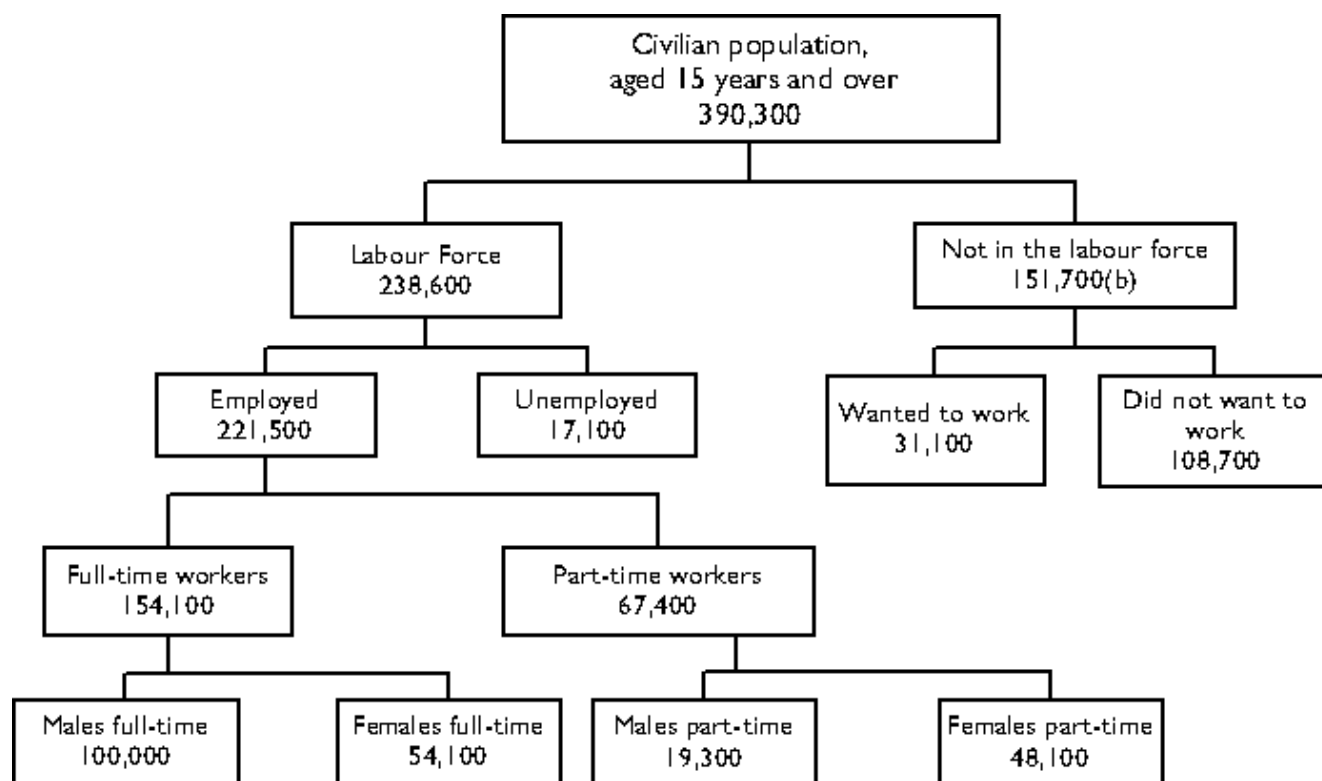
(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.

(b) Data are annual averages calculated on monthly original estimates, unless otherwise specified.

(c) Includes ASCO skill levels 1-3, which equate to ASCO major groups 1-5. For further information, refer to Australian Standard Classification of Occupations (cat.no. 1220.0).

(d) Estimates of average weekly earnings are trend data as published for May each year.

## LABOUR FORCE FRAMEWORK, TASMANIA, SEPTEMBER 2006(a)



(a) Based on original survey data, at September 2006

(b) Includes 11,900 people who were permanently unable to work

Source: Underemployed Workers, Australia (cat. no. 6265.0),  
Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6220.0)

## SOURCES

Australian Labour Market Statistics (ABS cat. no. 6105.0)

Average Weekly Earnings, Australia (ABS cat. no. 6302.0)

Employment Arrangements and Superannuation, Australia (ABS cat. no. 6361.0)

Forms of Employment, Australia (ABS cat. no. 6359.0)

Job Vacancies, Australia (ABS cat. no. 6354.0)

Labour Force, Australia (ABS cat. no. 6202.0)

Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery, Monthly (ABS cat. no. 6291.0.55.001)

Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly (ABS cat. no. 6291.0.55.003)

Labour Mobility, Australia (ABS cat. no. 6209.0)

Labour Price Index, Australia (ABS cat. no. 6345.0)

Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods (ABS cat. no. 6102.0.55.001)

Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia (ABS cat. no. 6220.0)

Regional Wage and Salary Earner Statistics, Australia (ABS cat. no. 5673.0)

# Economic Activity

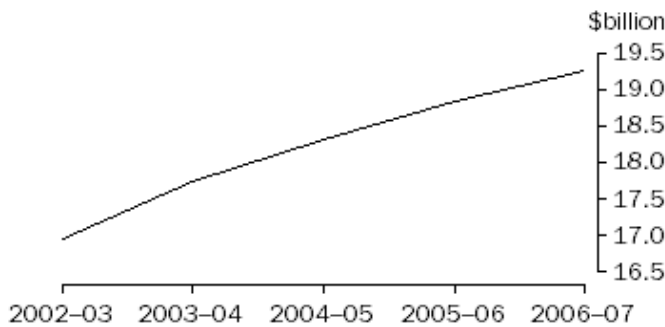


## ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

### GROSS STATE PRODUCT (GSP)

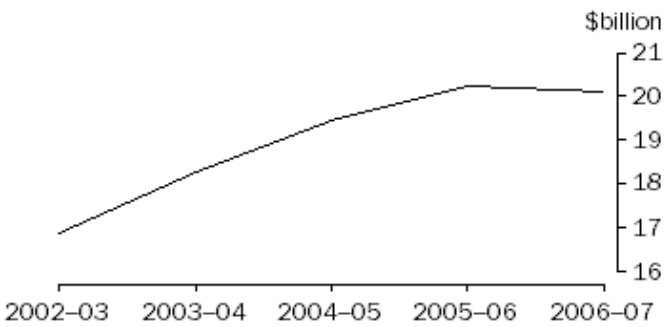
Tasmania's Gross State Product (GSP) reached \$19,239 million in 2006-07, an increase of \$397 million or 2.1% from the 2005-06 figure of \$18,842 million. In 2006-07, household final consumption expenditure was the largest component of total GSP, contributing \$11,752 million (61.1%). At the same time, government final consumption expenditure accounted for \$4,385 million (22.8%) of GSP. State final demand in 2006-07 decreased by 0.7% on the 2005-06 estimate of \$20,239 million.

**GROSS STATE PRODUCT, Tasmania**  
(chain volume measures)



Source: Australian National Accounts:  
State Accounts (cat. no. 5220.0)

**STATE FINAL DEMAND, Tasmania**  
(chain volume measures)



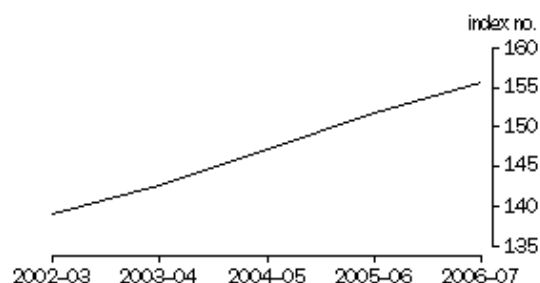
Source: Australian National Accounts:  
State Accounts (cat. no. 5220.0)

### CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI)

In 2006-07 the all groups CPI in Hobart increased by 2.5% from 2005-06. Rises in food prices (5.7%), health (4.2%) and housing (3.4%) were the main contributors to this change.

**CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (all groups),**  
**Hobart**

**CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (selected groups),**  
**Hobart**



Source: Consumer Price Index, Australia (cat. no. 6401.0)

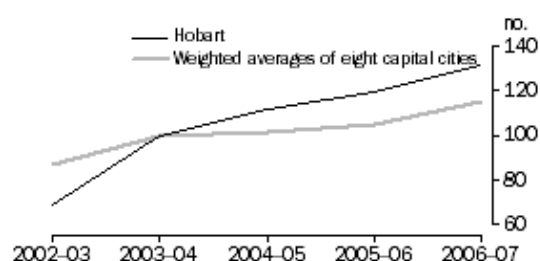


Source: Consumer Price Index, Australia (cat. no. 6401.0)

## HOUSE PRICE INDEX

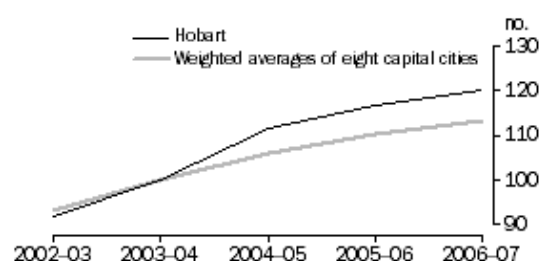
The price index for established houses in Hobart in 2006-07 increased 10.0% compared to 9.1% nationally. At the same time the price index for project homes in Hobart increased 3.0% compared to 2.7% nationally.

### HOUSE PRICE INDEX (established homes), Hobart



Source: House Price Indexes: Eight Capital Cities (cat. no. 6416.0)

### HOUSE PRICE INDEX (project homes), Hobart

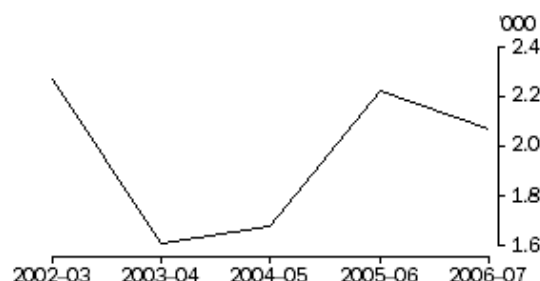


Source: House Price Indexes: Eight Capital Cities (cat. no. 6416.0)

## HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS

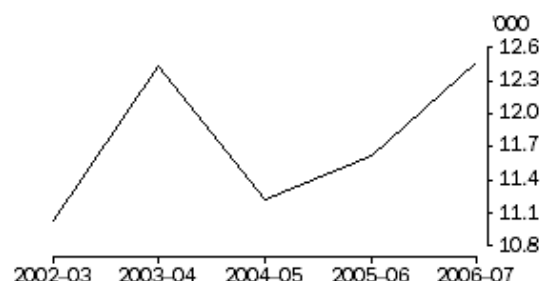
The number of first home buyers' houses (owner occupied) financed in Tasmania in 2006-07 decreased by 6.6% from the 2005-06 estimate of 2,200. At the same time non-first home buyers' dwellings (owner occupier) financed increased by 7.3%.

### FIRST HOME BUYERS (Tasmania), Number of Dwellings Financed



Source: Housing Finance, Australia (cat. no. 5809.0)

### NON-FIRST HOME BUYERS (Tasmania), Number of Dwellings Financed



Source: Housing Finance, Australia (cat. no. 5809.0)

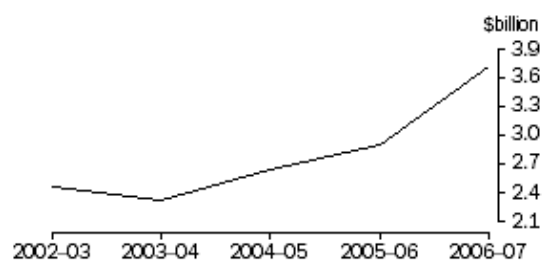
## INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE

In 2006-07 the value of Tasmanian goods exported overseas was \$3,712.2 million, an increase of 28.3% from 2005-06. At the same time, the value of goods imported directly into Tasmania was \$614.4 million, which represents an increase of 19.0% from 2005-06.

In 2006-07 the major Tasmanian export destination was Japan, buying \$626.8 million worth of Tasmanian goods or 12.9% more than in 2005-06. Tasmania's major source of imports in 2006-07 was the United States of America, dispatching goods worth \$78.7 million to the Tasmanian market.

Zinc was the major single export commodity in 2006-07, contributing \$1,098.4 million or 29.6% to total Tasmanian exports. Also in 2006-07, power generating machinery and equipment was the highest value imported commodity representing \$82.0 million or 13.3% of total imports.

**VALUE OF MERCHANDISE EXPORTS,  
Tasmania**



Value: free on board (f.o.b.)

Source: ABS data available on request, International trade

**VALUE OF MERCHANDISE IMPORTS,  
Tasmania**



Value: customs value

Source: ABS data available on request, International trade

## SOURCES

Australian Industry (ABS cat. no. 8155.0)

Australian National Accounts, State Accounts (ABS cat. no. 5220.0)

Consumer Price Index, Australia (ABS cat. no. 6401.0)

Housing Finance, Australia (ABS cat. no. 5609.0)

House Price Indexes, Eight Capital Cities (ABS cat. no. 6416.0)

Labour Price Index, Australia (ABS cat. no. 6345.0)

Lending Finance, Australia (ABS cat. no. 5671.0)

Private New Capital Expenditure and Expected Expenditure, Australia (ABS cat. no. 5625.0)

## Industry

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## INDUSTRY

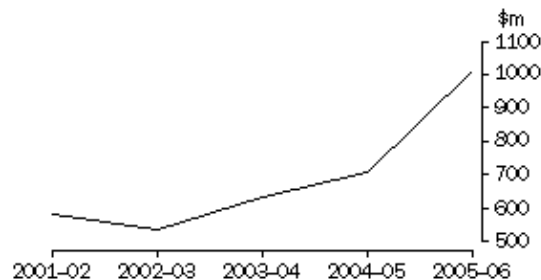
### AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

In 2005-06 the preliminary estimate of the gross value of agricultural commodities in Tasmania was \$934.4 million. The largest contributors were whole milk (\$209.1 million), slaughtering and other disposals of cattle and calves (\$178.8 million) and vegetables (\$166.0 million).

### MINING

Mineral production in Tasmania increased in value by 75.2% over the five year period 2001-02 to 2005-06. In 2005-06 total mineral commodities were worth \$1,011.0 million compared to \$577.0 million in 2001-02. In the previous twelve months, mineral production increased by 43.2%, up from \$706.0 million. The most substantial increase was in metallic mineral production, which reported a 47.0% increase from the previous year, increasing from \$634.0 million in 2004-05 to \$932.0 million in 2005-06.

#### TOTAL MINERAL PRODUCTION

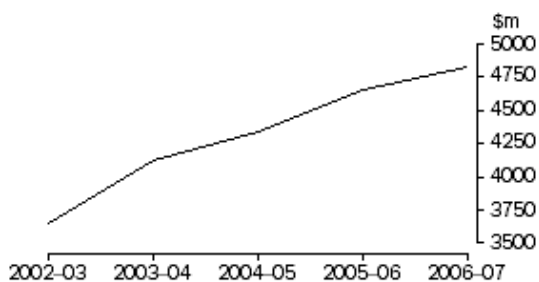


Source: Mining Operations, Australia (cat no. 8415.0)

### RETAIL TURNOVER

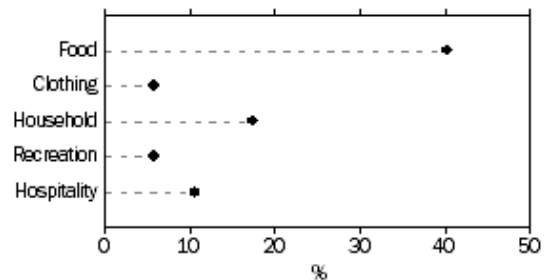
In 2006-07, the value of retail turnover in Tasmania was \$4,828.3 million. This represented an increase of 3.6% from the previous year, and an increase of 32.4% over the last 5 years. Food retailing industry contributed \$1,945.9 million of the total value of retail turnover (40.3%), followed by household good retailing \$840.2 million (17.4%) and hospitality and service industries \$510.4 million (10.6%).

#### RETAIL TURNOVER, Tasmania



Source: Retail Trade, Australia (cat. no. 8501.0)

#### RETAIL TURNOVER, Tasmania (percentage contribution)

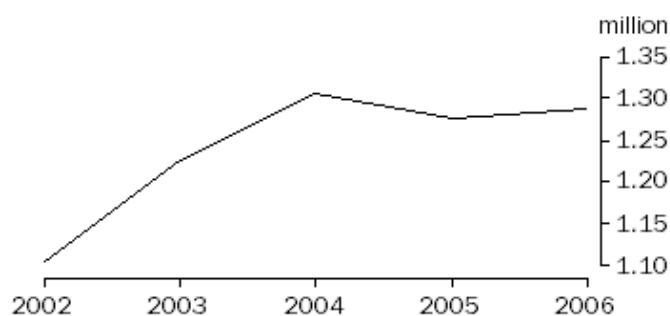


Source: Retail Trade, Australia (cat. no. 8501.0)

### TOURIST ACCOMMODATION

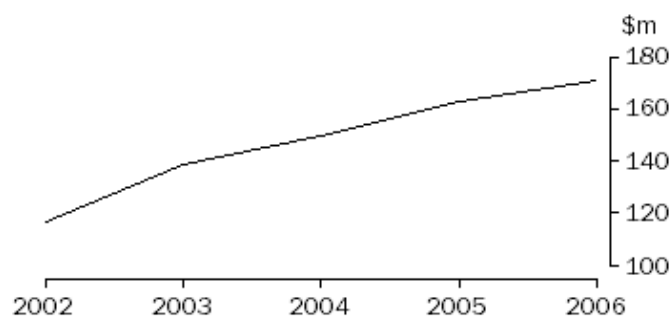
Guest arrivals peaked in 2004 with 1.3 million persons, and have remained relatively stable ever since. Takings from accommodation establishments have increased 45.9% over the 5 year period 2002 to 2006. In 2006, takings were \$170.8 million, compared to \$117.1 million in 2002, with the average taking per room per night \$124.80 in 2006 compared to \$100.37 in 2002.

### GUEST ARRIVALS, Tasmania



Note: Hotels, Motels and Serviced Apartments with 15 or more rooms.  
Source: Tourist Accommodation, Australia (cat. no. 8635.0)

### TAKINGS FROM ACCOMMODATION, Tasmania



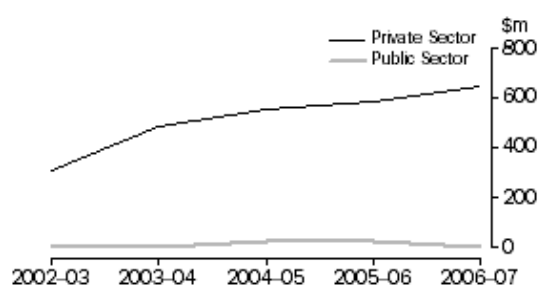
Note: Hotels, Motels and Serviced Apartments with 15 or more rooms.  
Source: Tourist Accommodation, Australia (cat. no. 8635.0)

## BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION

In 2006-07, the number of dwelling units approved for construction recorded an increase for the first time in three years. Total approvals numbered 2,848, an increase of 8.2% from the 2005-06 total of 2,633. This increase was mostly in new house approvals which were up by 10.1% (2,507) from the 2005-06 figure of 2,276.

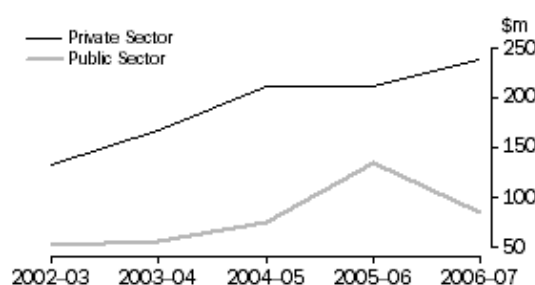
The private sector accounted for over 90.0% of the value of all building work done in 2006-07. Over half of this was from residential building of new houses. Less than 2.0% of the value of public sector residential building was invested in new houses.

### VALUE OF BUILDING WORK DONE, Tasmania Residential



Source: Building Activity, Australia (cat. no. 8752.0)

### VALUE OF BUILDING WORK DONE, Tasmania Non-residential

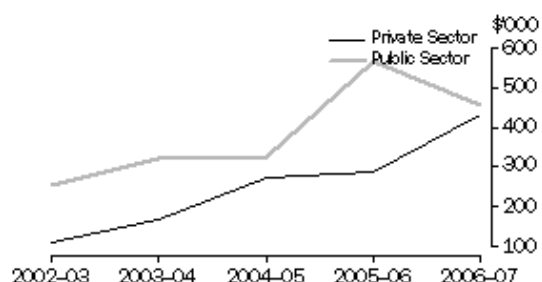


Source: Building Activity, Australia (cat. no. 8752.0)

The total value of engineering construction work done in Tasmania in 2006-07 was \$885.8 million, an increase of 3.7% from the previous year. In 2006-07, 48.7% of all engineering construction work was carried out by the private sector (\$431.4 million). Electricity generation, transmission and pipelines represented 40.1% of the total value of engineering construction work (38.1% of the private sector and 41.9% of the public sector) followed by roads, highways and subdivisions 20.9% (10.0% of the private sector and 31.1% of the public sector) and telecommunications 14.9% (24.4% of the private sector and 5.8% of the public sector). Heavy

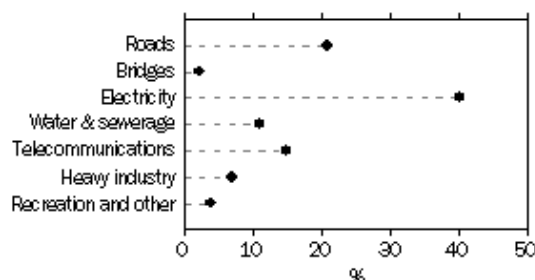
industry accounted for only 7% of the total value of engineering construction work done in Tasmania in 2006-07.

### VALUE OF ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION WORK DONE, Tasmania



Source: Engineering Construction Activity, Australia (cat. no. 8762.0)

### VALUE OF ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION WORK DONE, Tasmania (percentage contribution)



Source: Engineering Construction Activity, Australia (cat. no. 8762.0)

## RATEABLE LAND USE

As at November 2007, the total rateable land use area in Tasmania was 4,164,353 hectares (ha). Primary production accounted for 3,678,107 ha or 88.3% of this land, 193,957 ha was residential (4.7%), 123,082 ha was used for sporting facilities and recreation (3.0%) and 100,989 ha was vacant land (2.4%). Industrial land accounted for only 0.2% of the total rateable land use area. (Source: Information and Land Services, DPIW)

## BUSINESS COUNTS

At June 2006 there were 15,012 (41.0%) employing and 21,582 (59.0%) non-employing businesses operating in Tasmania. The majority of employing businesses, 8,088 (53.9%) employed less than four employees with 5,058 (33.7%) businesses employing 5 to 19 employees. 1,266 businesses (8.4%) employed 20 to 49 employees while only 600 businesses (4.0%) had 50 or more employees.

## SOURCES

Building Activity, Australia (ABS cat. no. 8752.0)

Building Approvals, Australia (ABS cat. no. 8731.0)

Counts of Australian Businesses, including entries and exits June 2003 - June 2006 (ABS cat. no. 8165.0)

Engineering Construction Activity, Australia (ABS cat. no. 8762.0)

Manufacturing Industry, Australia (ABS cat. no. 8221.0)

Mining Operations, Australia (ABS cat. no. 8412.0)

Retail Trade, Australia (ABS cat. no. 8501.0)

Tourist Accommodation, Australia (ABS cat. no. 8635.0)

Value of Agricultural Commodities Produced (ABS cat. no. 7503.0)

# Population



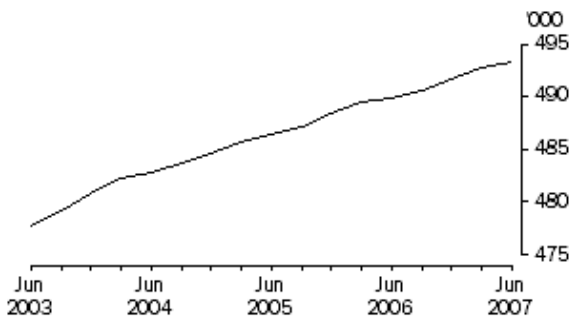
## POPULATION

### POPULATION CHANGE (a)

In the year to June 2007, Tasmania's population grew by 3,400 to a total of 493,300 people. This growth must be considered in the context of Tasmania's historical pattern of population change and the nature of Tasmania's components of population change. The components of population change are natural increase, interstate migration and overseas migration. In Tasmania, natural increase is the main source of population growth, while net interstate migration is usually the main source of population loss.

After experiencing population decline between 1996 and 2000 due to large interstate migration losses, Tasmania did not exceed its 1996 population until June 2003. The net growth experienced between June 2002 and 2004, seen in the graph below, was due to higher than average levels of net interstate migration. Between June 2005 and 2007, net interstate migration returned to its longer term trend of net loss; however, Tasmania did not return to population decline. This was due to larger than average gains from net overseas migration and natural increase over that period.

TOTAL POPULATION, Tasmania



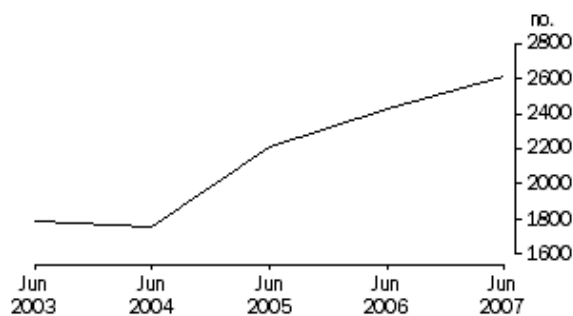
Source: Australian Demographic Statistics, Jun 2007 (cat. no. 3101.0)

### NATURAL INCREASE (a)

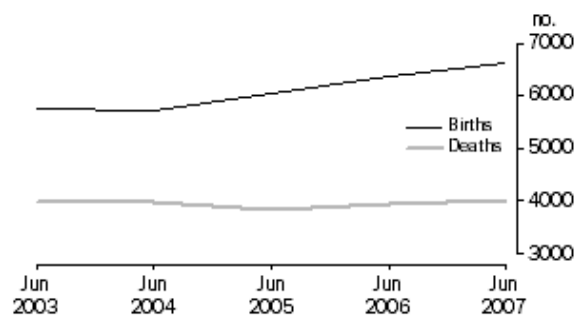
Natural increase (the number of births minus the number of deaths) contributed 2,600 people to Tasmania's population growth of 3,400 people in the year to June 2007, and was therefore the main component of population change. The number of births per annum increased markedly from 2004 to 2007, from 5,800 to 6,600. The number of deaths over the 2003 to 2007 period remained relatively steady at around 4,000 deaths per annum.

### NATURAL INCREASE, Tasmania

### BIRTHS & DEATHS, Tasmania



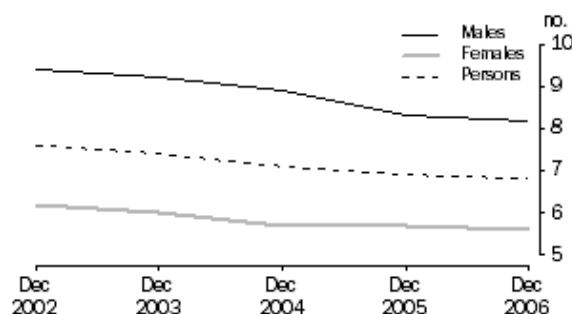
Source: Australian Demographic Statistics, Jun 2007 (cat. no. 3101.0)



Source: Australian Demographic Statistics, Jun 2007 (cat. no. 3101.0)

At December 2006, Tasmania's standardised death rate was 6.8 deaths per 1,000 standard population. Even though Tasmania's population is ageing, the falling standardised death rate means Tasmanians are increasingly less likely to die at younger ages.

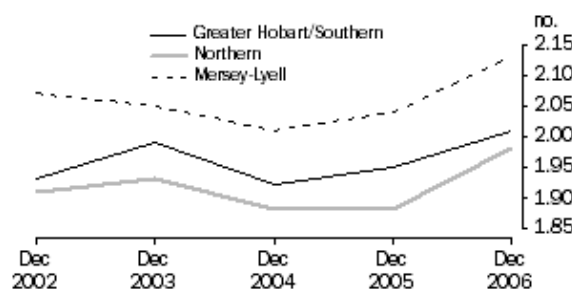
### STANDARDISED DEATH RATE, Tasmania



Source: Deaths, Australia, 2006 (cat. no. 3302.0)

The total fertility rate (the number of babies a woman could expect to bear in her reproductive lifetime) varies by region within Tasmania. Mersey-Lyell Statistical Division (SD) had the highest fertility rate over the 2002 to 2006 period, reaching 2.13 babies per woman at December 2006, while the Northern SD had the lowest fertility rate (1.98).

### TOTAL FERTILITY RATE(a), Statistical Divisions



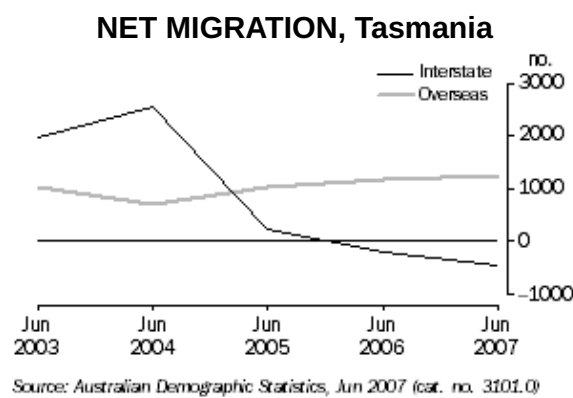
(a) Average total fertility rate for three years leading to reference year.

Source: Births, Australia, 2006 (cat. no. 3301.0)

### NET MIGRATION (a)

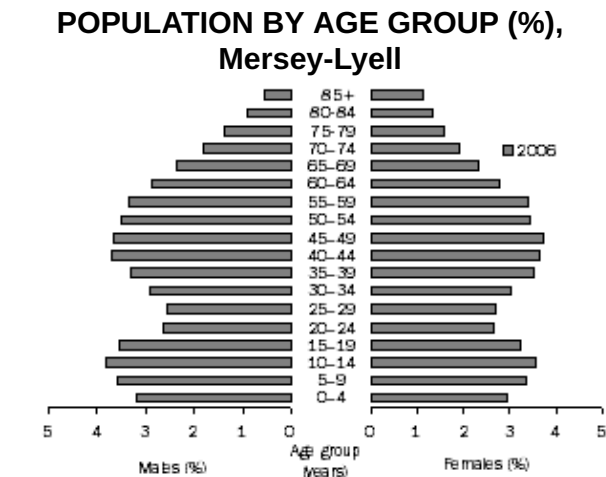
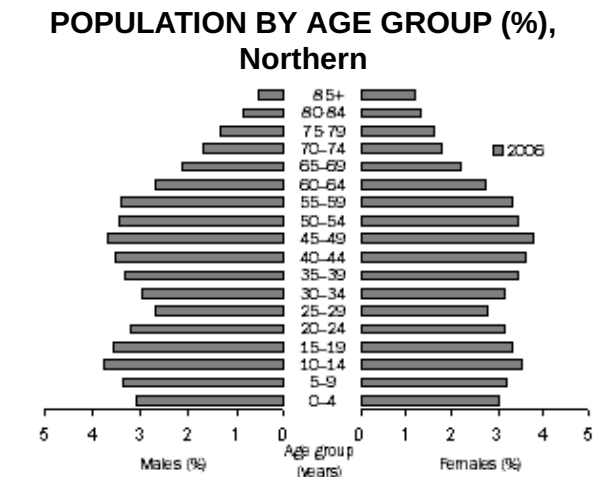
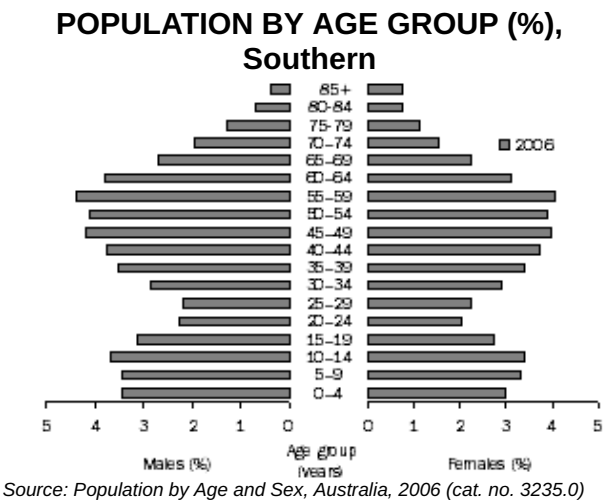
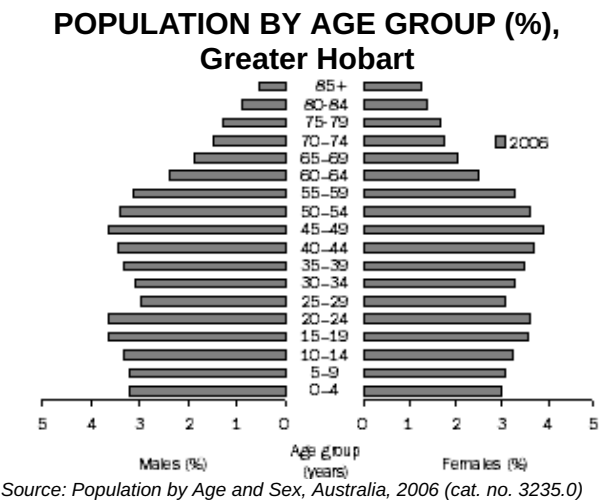
Tasmania experiences a high flow of people to and from the State, with 12,300 people arriving and 12,800 departing in the year to June 2007, leading to a net loss of 450 people. This loss comes after a recent net migration high of 2,600 in the year to June 2004, coinciding with the peak of the housing boom. Tasmania attracts a low proportion of Australia's overseas migrants;

however, we consistently receive a net gain. Over the 2005 to 2007 period, Tasmania gained more in net terms from overseas than from interstate migrants, with 1,300 overseas migrants arriving in the year to June 2007.



### AGE STRUCTURE OF THE POPULATION (a)

Tasmania's regions have different age structures which affect the current and future needs of the populations (as well as **reflecting** the current needs of the populations). The population pyramids below illustrate that Southern SD and Mersey-Lyell SD have low proportions of 20 to 29 year olds relative to the other age groups, while Greater Hobart SD has a relatively large proportion of 15 to 24 year olds. This affects where resources may be needed and may reflect the availability of tertiary education and employment opportunities.



**Footnote:** (a) Numbers in this section of commentary have been rounded, and will not exactly match those in the related spreadsheets.

## SOURCES

Australian Demographic Statistics (ABS cat. no. 3101.0)

Births, Australia (ABS cat. no. 3301.0)

Deaths, Australia (ABS cat. no. 3302.0)

Demographic Estimates and Projections: Concepts, Sources and Methods, 1999 (ABS cat. no. 3228.0)

## Family and Community



### FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

#### FAMILY COMPOSITION

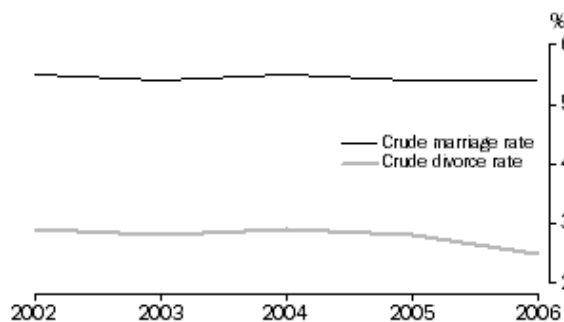
In 2006, there were 128,660 families recorded in Tasmania. Of these, couple families with no children accounted for 40.5%, couple families with children represented 41.4% and one parent families made up 16.7%. Most families with children, regardless of being couple families or one parent families, had children aged under 15 years.

#### MARRIAGES AND DIVORCES

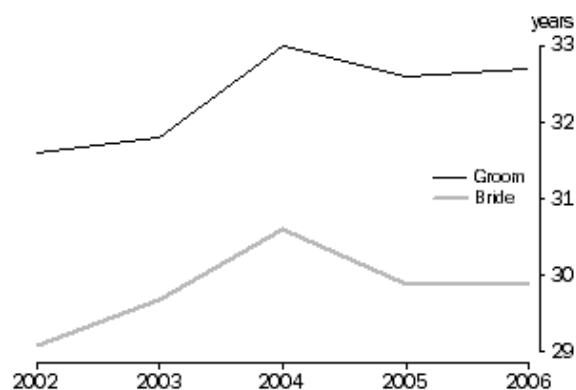
The number of registered marriages in Tasmania has remained relatively steady over the last five years, with the crude marriage rate varying little. Median age at marriage increased slightly from 31.6 years for males in 2002 to 32.7 years in 2006 and 29.1 years for females in 2002 to 29.9 years in 2006. Marriages involving cohabitation prior to marriage increased from 79.6% in 2002 to 82.1% in 2006.

In 2006, over half of all divorces involved children. The crude divorce rate decreased slightly over the last five years, from 2.9% in 2002 to 2.5% in 2006. In 2006, the median duration of marriage prior to divorce was 13.5 years.

**CRUDE MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE RATES,      MEDIAN AGE AT MARRIAGE, Tasmania**  
Tasmania



Source: Marriages, Australia, 2006 (cat. no. 3306.0.55.001)  
Divorces, Australia, 2006 (cat. no. 3307.0.55.001)



Source: Marriages, Australia, 2006 (cat. no. 3306.0.55.001)

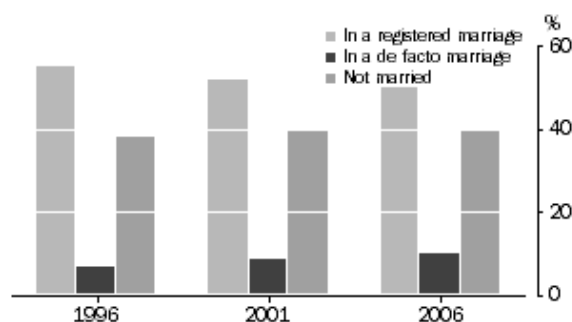
## SOCIAL MARITAL STATUS

In 2006, 49.9% of all Tasmanians aged 15 years and over were in a registered marriage. This compared to 52.0% in 2001 and 55.2% in 1996.

In 2006, 35,700 persons or 10.4% of all Tasmanians aged 15 years and over were in a de facto marriage, compared to 22,400 in 1996. This represented an increase of 59.0% in persons in de facto marriages over the ten year period 1996-2006.

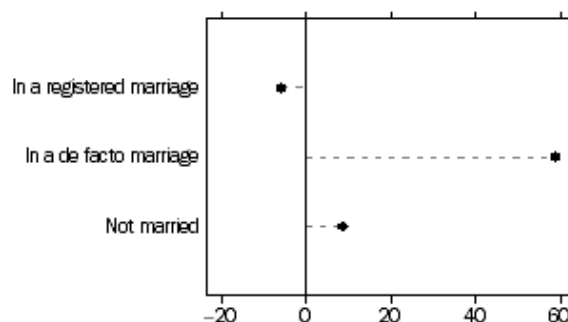
In 2006, the percentage of persons aged 15 years and over in Tasmania who were not married remained relatively steady, increasing only slightly to 39.6%, from 39.4% in 2001 and 38.0% in 1996.

### SOCIAL MARITAL STATUS, Tasmania, 1996-2006



Source: Census of Population and Housing, 2006, Time Series Profile, Table T05

### SOCIAL MARITAL STATUS, Tasmania, 1996-2006 (percentage change)



Persons aged 15 years and over.

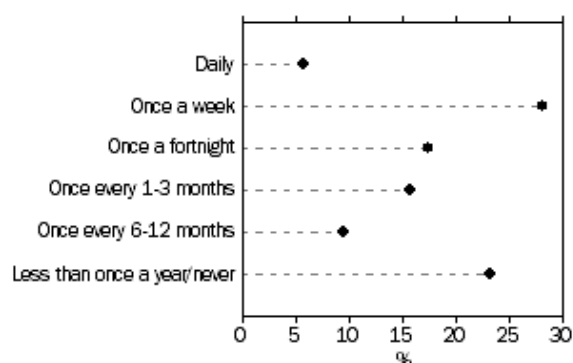
Source: Census of Population and Housing, 2006, Time Series Profile, Table T05

## CONTACT ARRANGEMENTS

In 2003, of children aged 0-17 years with a natural parent living elsewhere, 28.2% had face to face contact at least once a week, 17.5% had face to face contact at least once a fortnight, and 15.8% had face to face contact at least once every 1-3 months. Almost a quarter (23.3%) of all children aged 0-17 years with a natural parent living elsewhere had face to face contact less than once a year or never.

Nearly half (49.4%) of all children with a natural parent living elsewhere never stay overnight with the parent living elsewhere.

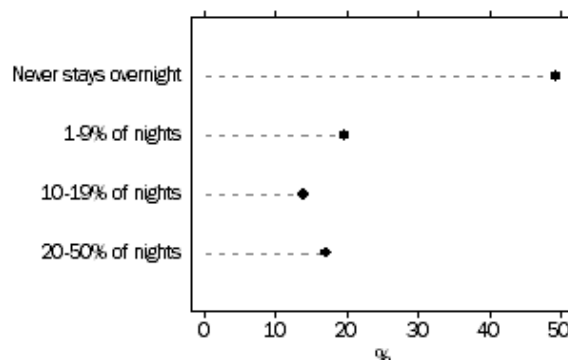
## FREQUENCY OF FACE TO FACE CONTACT, Tasmania, 2003



Children aged 0-17 years.

Source: Family Characteristics, 2003 (cat. no. 4442.0)

## PROPORTION OF NIGHTS WITH NATURAL PARENT LIVING ELSEWHERE, Tasmania, 2003



Children aged 0-17 years.

Source: Family Characteristics, 2003 (cat. no. 4442.0)

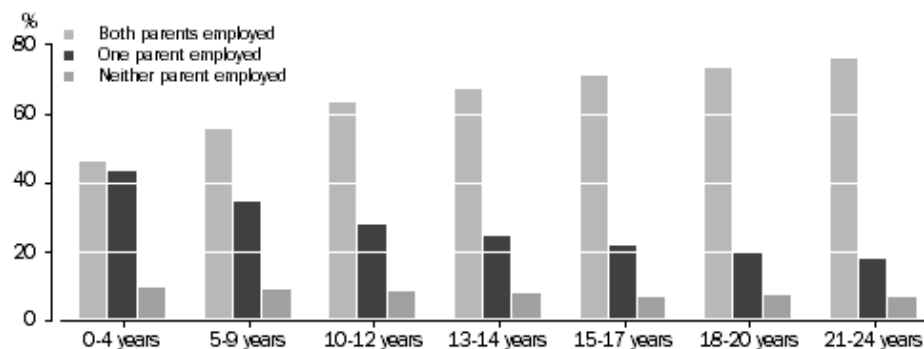
## LABOUR FORCE STATUS OF PARENTS

In 2006, more than half (58.4%) of all dependent children in couple families had both parents employed. The likelihood of both parents being employed increased with the age of the children, from 45.9% of dependent children aged 0-4 years to 75.6% of dependent children aged 21-24 years. At the same time, 32.1% of dependent children in couple families had one parent employed. The likelihood of dependent children in couple families having one parent employed decreased with the age of the children, from 43.2% of dependent children aged 0-4 years to 17.4% of dependent children aged 21-24 years.

Of one parent families with dependent children, 49.9% of children had an employed parent. The likelihood of the parent being employed increased with the age of the children, from 27.4% of dependent children aged 0-4 years to 70.7% of dependent children aged 21-24 years.

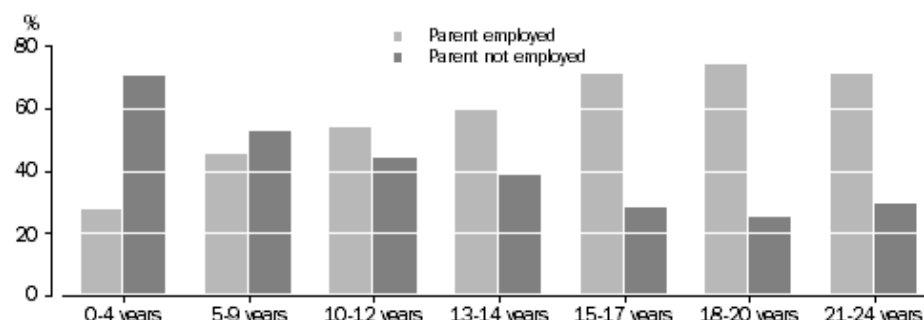
Of children living in couple families with children, only 8.3% had neither parent employed, compared to 48.3% of children in one parent families. The likelihood of neither parent in a couple family with children being employed varied little with the age of the children, decreasing only slightly from 9.5% of dependent children aged 0-4 years to 6.6% of dependent children aged 21-24 years. However, the likelihood of the parent in a one parent family with dependent children not being employed decreased markedly with the age of the children, from 70.3% for dependent children aged 0-4 years to 29.3% of dependent children aged 21-24 years.

## LABOUR FORCE STATUS OF PARENTS, Children in couple families, by age, Tasmania, 2006



Source: Census of Population and Housing, 2006, Expanded Community Profile, table X33, X34

### LABOUR FORCE STATUS OF PARENTS, Children in one parent families, by age, Tasmania, 2006

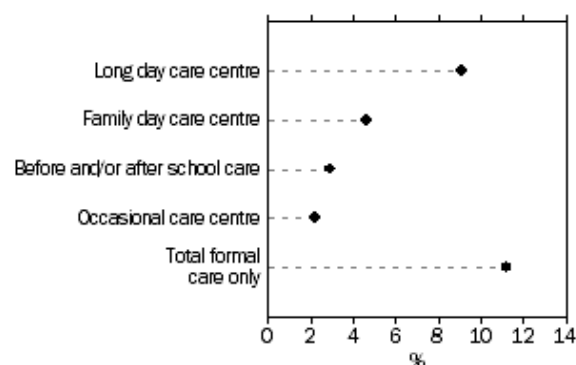


Source: Census of Population and Housing, 2006, Expanded Community Profile, table X33, X34

## CHILD CARE

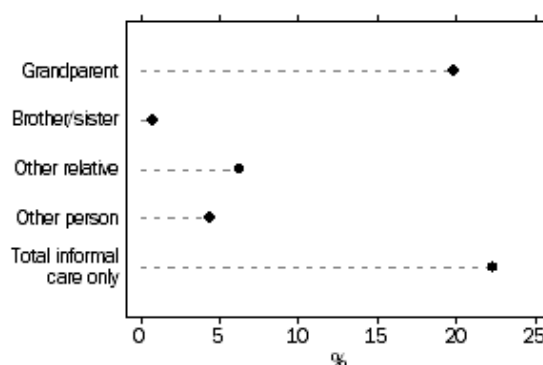
In 2005, 40.6% of children aged 0-12 years used child care. Of these, 11.2% used formal care only, 22.3% used informal care only and 7.1% used both formal and informal care. Long day care centre was the most commonly used form of formal child care (9.1%) followed by family day care centre (4.6%) and before and/or after school care (2.9%). Grandparents provided a significant proportion of informal child care (19.8%).

### FORMAL CHILD CARE, Tasmania, 2005



Children aged 0-12 years.  
Source: Child Care, Australia, 2005 (cat. no. 4402.0)

### INFORMAL CHILD CARE, Tasmania, 2005



Children aged 0-12 years.  
Source: Child Care, Australia, 2005 (cat. no. 4402.0)

## CHILDREN'S PARTICIPATION IN CULTURAL AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES

In 2006, almost one third (32.2%) of Tasmanian children aged 5-14 years participated in cultural activities. Females were more likely to participate in cultural activities (46.9%) compared to males (18.4%). This included playing a musical instrument (females 21.6% compared to males 14.8%), dancing (females 24.1% compared to males 1.2%) and singing (females 12.2% compared to males 3.0%). Females were also more likely to visit a public library or attend a performing arts event.

More than half (59.2%) of all children aged 5-14 years participated in sport. Of these, males accounted for 60.2% of participants and females 58.4%. Soccer (outdoor) was the highest participation sport amongst Tasmanian children aged 5-14 years (17.5%), attracting 23.7% males and 10.9% females. This was followed by swimming (14.6%) which attracted 11.3% males and 18.4% females, and Australian Rules Football (10.0%) which attracted 18.4% males and 0.9% females.

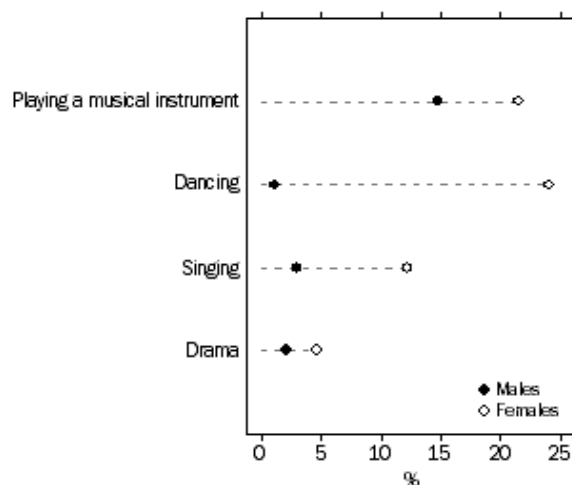
Leisure pursuits were dominated by watching TV, videos or DVDs (95.4%), reading for pleasure (78.8%) and bike riding (72.5%). Most children used a computer (94.1%), with 61.2% having accessed the Internet.

Participation in organised sport increased with age, from 40.9% of children aged 5-8 years to 72.7% of children aged 12-14 years. Use of the Internet also increased with age, from 36.1% of children aged 5-8 years to 83.9% of children aged 12-14 years, as did homework or other study, which increased from 48.4% of children aged 5-8 years to 84.9% of children aged 12-14 years.

Participation in art and craft activities decreased with age, from 70.6% of children aged 5-8 years to 29.3% of children aged 12-14 years. Skateboarding or rollerblading also decreased with age, from 21.0% of children aged 5-8 years to 13.2% of children aged 12-14 years, as did bike riding, which decreased from 79.4% of children aged 5-8 years to 60.0% of children aged 12-14 years. Use of a computer, but not the Internet, decreased from 50.4% of children aged 5-8 years to 13.7% of children aged 12-14 years.

Participation in organised cultural activities, playing electronic or computer games, watching TV, videos or DVDs, and reading for pleasure remained relatively steady as children aged.

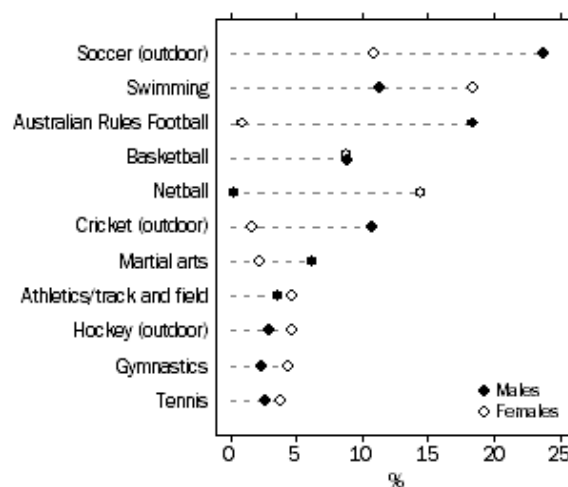
### CHILDREN'S PARTICIPATION IN CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, By sex, Tasmania, 2006



Children aged 5-14 years.

Source: Children's Participation in Culture and Leisure Activities, Australia, 2006 (cat. no. 4901.0)

### CHILDREN'S PARTICIPATION IN SPORT, By sex, Tasmania, 2006

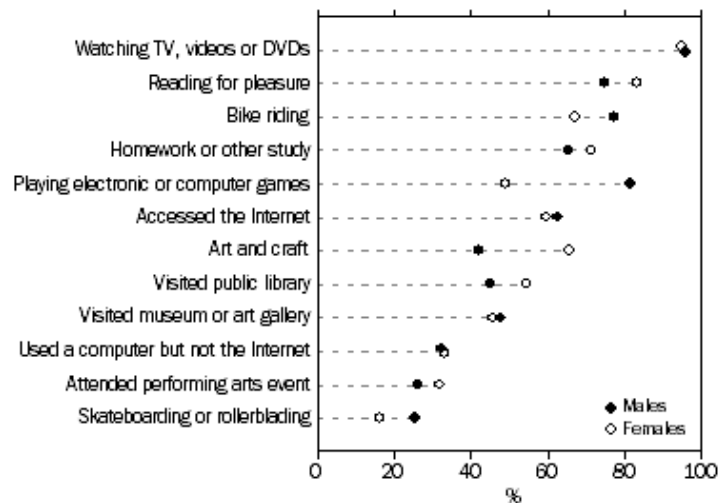


Children aged 5-14 years.

Source: Children's Participation in Culture and Leisure Activities, Australia, 2006 (cat. no. 4901.0)

### CHILDREN'S PARTICIPATION IN LEISURE ACTIVITIES,

### By sex, Tasmania, 2006



Children aged 5-14 years.

Source: *Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities, Australia, 2006* (cat. no. 4901)

## SOCIAL INVOLVEMENT

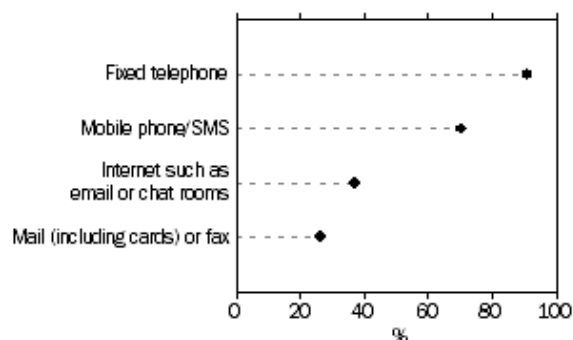
In the week prior to the General Social Survey 2006, 84.0% of all persons in Tasmania aged 18 years and over had face to face contact with family or friends living outside the household. Face to face contact was made by 85.3% of all females and 82.6% of all males aged 18 years and over. Face to face contact decreased with age, from 90.6% of persons aged 18-24 years to 77.4% of persons aged 75 years and over.

Other forms of contact with family and friends living outside the household were measured over a three month period. From March to July 2006, 91.0% of the Tasmanian population aged 18 years and over used a fixed telephone to contact family or friends living outside the household. This was followed by mobile phone/SMS (70.4%), Internet such as email or chat rooms (37.0%), and mail (including cards) or fax (26.4%). Fixed telephone and mail were most commonly used by persons aged 65-74 years. Mobile phone/SMS were most commonly used by persons aged 18-24 years. Internet such as email or chat rooms was most commonly used by persons aged 25-34 years. Females were more likely to use mail, fixed telephone and Internet. Males were more likely to use mobile phone/SMS.

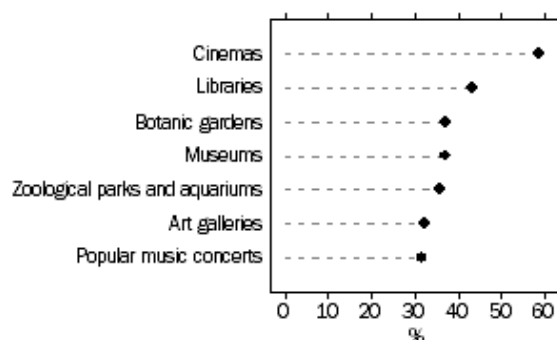
The majority of persons aged 18 years and over attended at least one cultural and leisure venue or event in the last 12 months (86.9%). The most visited venues or events were cinemas (58.8%), libraries (43.4%), botanic gardens (37.2%) and museums (37.0%). Females were more likely to attend a cultural and leisure venue or event, while males were more likely to attend or participate in a sporting event or recreational physical activity.

**TYPE OF CONTACT WITH FAMILY OR FRIENDS  
LIVING OUTSIDE THE HOUSEHOLD,  
Tasmania, 2006**

**MAIN TYPES OF VENUES OR EVENTS  
ATTENDED,  
Tasmania, 2006**



Persons aged 18 years and over.  
Source: General Social Survey, Tasmania, 2006  
(cat. no. 4159.6.55.001)

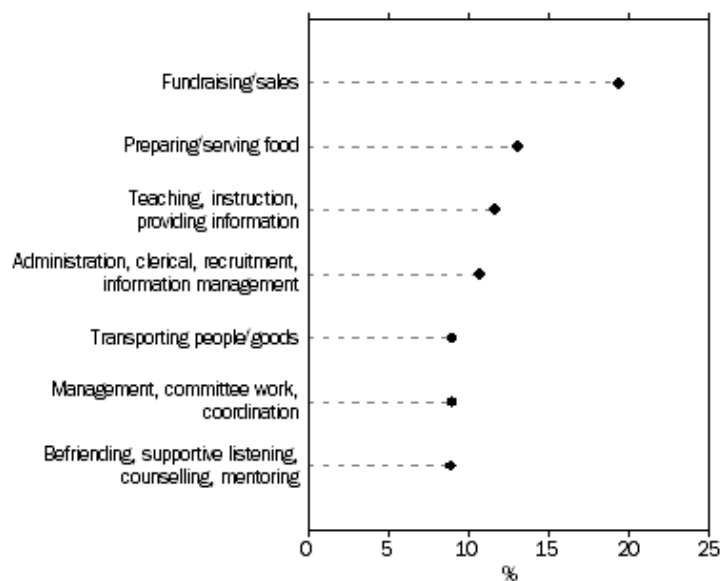


Persons aged 18 years and over.  
Source: General Social Survey, Tasmania, 2006  
(cat. no. 4159.6.55.001)

## VOLUNTARY WORK

According to the General Social Survey 2006, 36.0% of Tasmanians aged 18 years and over undertook voluntary work in the 12 months prior to July 2006. Most volunteers were engaged in fundraising/sales (19.4%) followed by preparing/serving food (13.1%). This trend was reflected in persons aged 25-34 years, 35-44 years, 45-54 years and 55-65 years. Persons aged 18-24 years were primarily engaged in teaching/instruction/providing information (15.0%) followed by fundraising/sales (14.8%). The majority of persons aged 65 years and over were engaged in fundraising/sales (19.6%) followed by administration/clerical/recruitment/information management (12.7%).

### TYPE OF VOLUNTARY ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN, Tasmania, 2006



Persons aged 18 years and over.  
Source: General Social Survey, Tasmania, 2006 (cat. no. 4159.6.55.001)

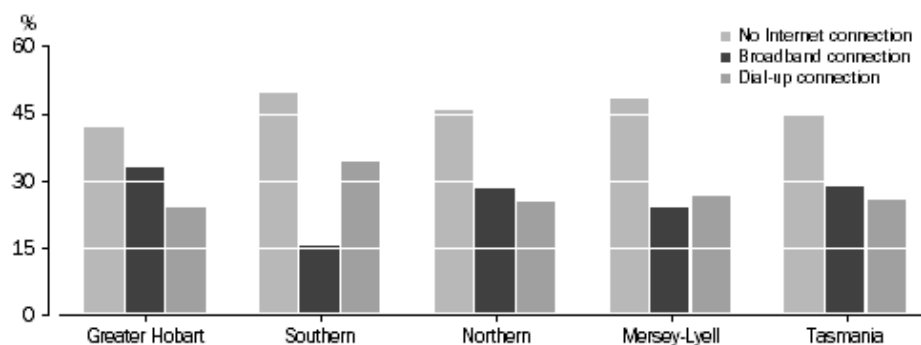
## TYPE OF INTERNET CONNECTION

On Census night 2006, more than a quarter of Tasmanian dwellings (excluding not stated) had broadband internet access (28.6%), closely followed by dial-up connection (25.7%). Of all occupied private Tasmanian dwellings, 45.1% had no Internet connection.

Greater Hobart Statistical Division (SD) had the highest proportion of broadband connection (33.2%), compared to dial-up (24.1%). Northern SD reported 28.4% of dwellings with broadband and 25.1% with dial-up. Mersey-Lyell SD reported 24.2% with broadband and 26.7% with dial-up, and Southern SD reported 15.7% with broadband and 34.2% with dial-up.

Southern SD had the highest proportion of dwellings with no Internet connection (49.6%), followed by Mersey-Lyell SD (48.5%) and Northern SD (45.9%). Greater Hobart SD had the lowest (41.9%).

### TYPE OF INTERNET CONNECTION, TASMANIAN DWELLINGS(a), By Statistical Division, Tasmania, Census Night 2006



(a) Excluding not stated.

Source: Census of Population and Housing, 2006.  
Data available on request.

## SOURCES

2006 Census of Population and Housing (ABS Community Profiles)

Australian Historic Population Statistics (ABS cat no. 3105.0.65.001)

Child Care, Australia (ABS cat. no. 4402.0)

Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities, Australia (ABS cat. no. 4901.0)

Divorces, Australia (ABS cat. no. 3307.0.55.001)

Family Characteristics, Australia (ABS cat. no. 4442.0)

General Social Survey, Tasmania (ABS cat. no. 4159.6.55.001)

Marriages, Australia (ABS cat. no. 3306.0.55.001)

Marriages and Divorces, Australia (ABS cat. no. 3310.0)

Further information can also be found on the Family and Community Statistics Theme Page of the ABS website.

## Household Economic Resources



### HOUSEHOLD ECONOMIC RESOURCES

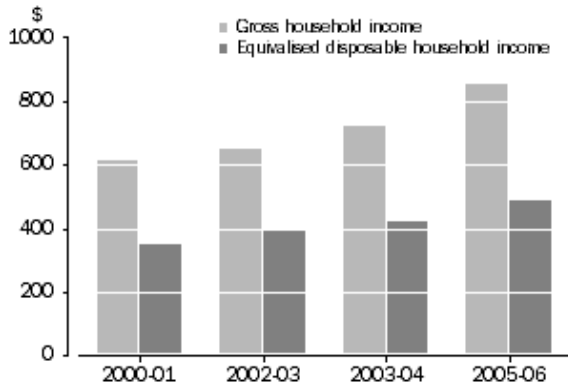
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## GROSS AND EQUIVALISED HOUSEHOLD INCOME

In recent times, Tasmanian households have recorded healthy growth in household income. In 2005-06, the median weekly gross household income in Tasmania was \$850. This was an increase of 18.1% on the 2003-04 estimate of \$720 and 38.9% on the 2000-01 estimate of \$612.

In 2005-06, the Tasmanian median weekly equivalised disposable household income (household income adjusted to facilitate comparison between different sized households) was \$486. This was a 15.7% increase on the 2003-04 estimate of \$420 and a 38.9% increase on the 2000-01 estimate of \$350.

### MEDIAN WEEKLY GROSS AND EQUIVALISED DISPOSABLE HOUSEHOLD INCOME, Tasmania

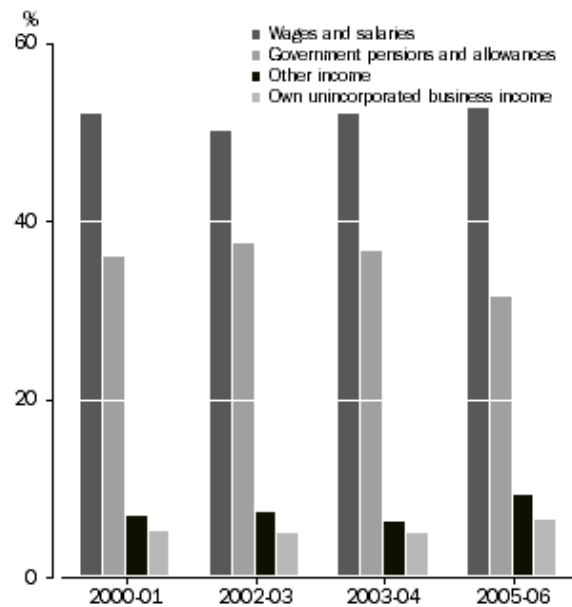


Source: Household Income and Income Distribution, Aust. (cat. no. 6523.0)

## PRINCIPAL SOURCE OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME

In 2005-06, wages and salaries were the main source of household income in Tasmania. They contributed 52.8% to total household income, followed by a 31.5% contribution from government pensions and allowances, and a 6.5% contribution from unincorporated business income. Government pensions and allowances recorded a decline in their contribution to total household income, from 36.6% in 2003-04 to 31.5% in 2005-06.

### PRINCIPAL SOURCE OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME, Tasmania

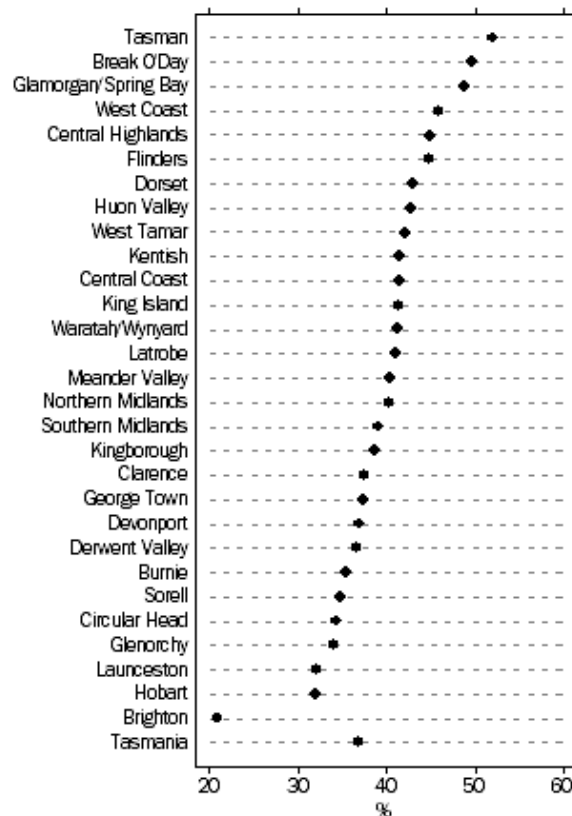


Source: Household Income and Income Distribution, Aust. (cat. no. 6523.0)

## HOME OWNERSHIP

On Census night 2006, 36.8% of all occupied private dwellings in Tasmania were fully owned. The local government areas (LGAs) with the highest percentage of home ownership were Tasman (52.1%) followed by Break O'Day (49.6%) and Glamorgan/Spring Bay (48.8%). Brighton was the LGA with the lowest percentage of home ownership (20.8%) followed by Hobart (32.0%) and Launceston (32.1%).

### HOME OWNERSHIP, Tasmanian occupied private dwellings by LGA

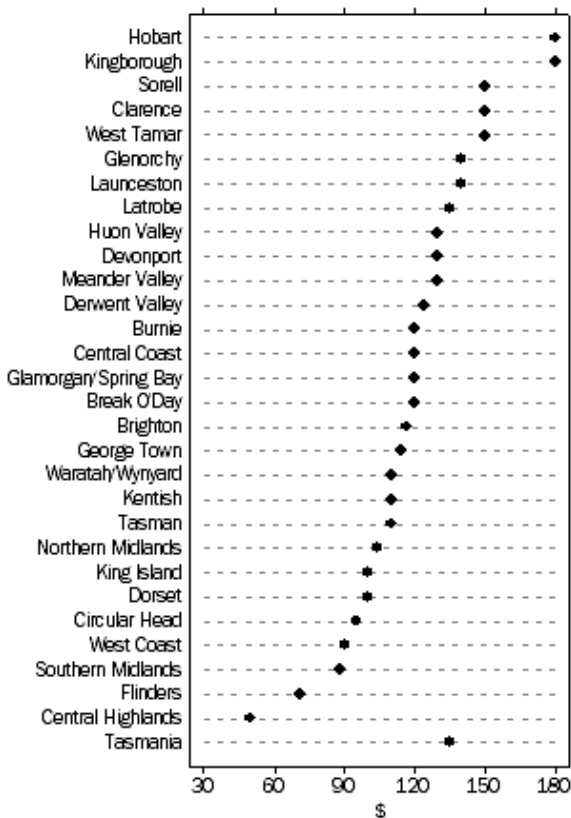


Source: 2006 Census of Population and Housing - Community Profiles

## HOUSING RENT PAID

On Census night 2006, the median weekly rent paid for occupied private dwellings in Tasmania was \$135. The most expensive LGAs in which to rent were Hobart and Kingborough, each with a median weekly rent of \$180 followed by West Tamar, Clarence and Sorell with a median weekly rent of \$150. At the same time, Central Highlands LGA was the cheapest place to rent with a median weekly rent of \$50, followed by Flinders (\$71) and Southern Midlands (\$88).

### MEDIAN WEEKLY RENT PAID, Tasmanian occupied private dwellings, by LGA

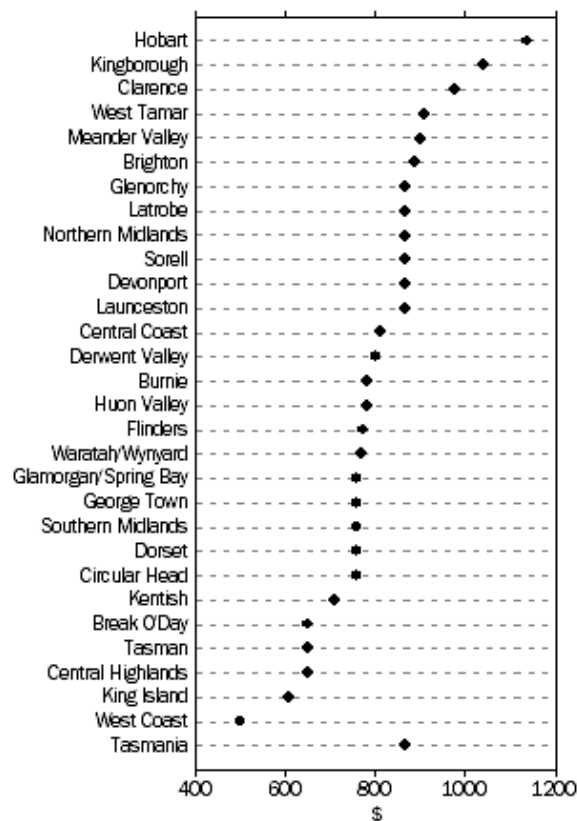


Source: Census of Population and Housing - Community Profiles

## HOUSEHOLD HOUSING LOAN REPAYMENT

On Census night 2006, the median monthly home loan repayment for occupied private dwellings in Tasmania was \$867. Hobart residents had the highest median monthly home loan repayment (\$1,138), followed by Kingborough residents (\$1,040) and Clarence residents (\$975). West Coast residents had the lowest median monthly home loan repayment (\$500), followed by King Island residents (\$609), and Break O'Day, Central Highlands and Tasman residents (all with \$650).

### MEDIAN MONTHLY HOUSING LOAN REPAYMENT, Tasmanian occupied private dwellings, by LGA



Source: Census of Population and Housing - Community Profiles

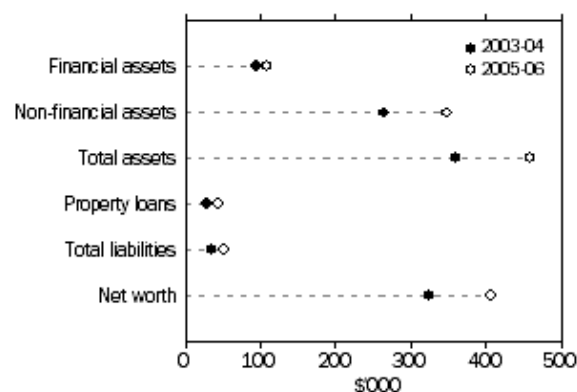
## HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE

In 2003-04, food and non-alcoholic beverages accounted for the largest expenditure by Tasmanian households on goods and services, contributing 17.8% of total household expenditure. (Expenditure on these items has declined from 19.3% in 1993-94 and from 18.3% in 1998-99.)

Transport was the second biggest expenditure item in 2003-04, contributing 16.9% of total household expenditure. (Expenditure on this item has increased from 14.9% in 1993-94 and from 16.0% in 1998-99.)

In 2003-04, housing costs contributed 13.0% of total household expenditure. (Expenditure on this item has increased from 11.4% in 1993-94 and from 11.9% in 1998-99.)

## PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL GOODS AND SERVICES EXPENDITURE, Tasmania

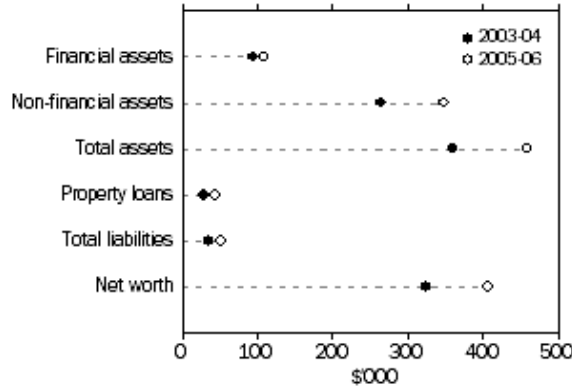


Source: Household Wealth and Wealth Distribution, Aust. (cat. no. 6554.0)

HOUSEHOLD ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

In 2005-06, average (mean) household net worth in Tasmania was \$406,600 compared to \$324,900 in 2003-04. Average household assets in 2005-06 were \$458,500 comprising of \$109,200 in financial assets and \$349,200 in non-financial assets. On the other side of the ledger, average Tasmanian household liabilities in 2005-06 were \$51,800 of which property loans contributed \$44,900.

HOUSEHOLD ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, Tasmanian households



Source: Household Wealth and Wealth Distribution, Aust. (cat. no. 6554.0)

SOURCES

- 2006 Census of Population and Housing (ABS Community Profiles)
  - Government Benefits, Taxes and Household Income, Australia (ABS cat. no. 6537.0)
  - Household Income and Income Distribution, Australia (ABS cat. no. 6523.0)
  - Household Expenditure Survey, Australia (ABS cat. no. 6530.0)
  - Household Wealth and Wealth Distribution (ABS cat. no. 6554.0)
  - Housing Occupancy and Costs, Australia, Detailed Tables (ABS cat. no. 4130.0.55.001)
- Further information can also be found on the Personal, Family and Household Finances Theme Page of the ABS website.

Education



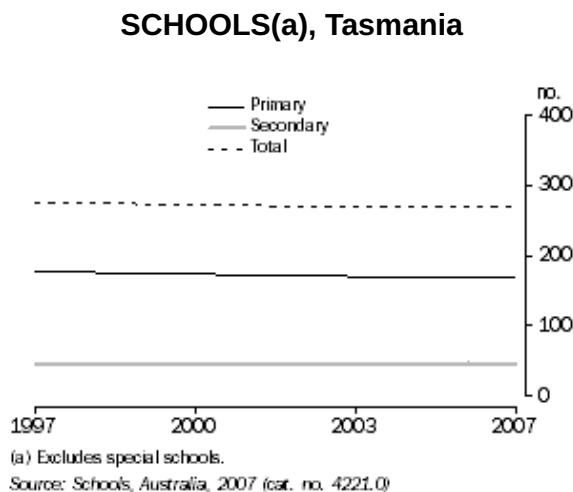
EDUCATION

SCHOOLS

In August 2007, there were 277 schools in Tasmania, of which 210 (75.8%) were government schools and 67 (24.2%) were non-government schools. There were 169 (61.0%) primary only

schools, 46 (16.6%) secondary only schools, 56 (20.2%) combined primary/secondary schools and 6 (2.2%) special schools.

The number of schools in a particular year can be affected by structural change in the composition of schooling rather than necessarily a change in the number of sites delivering full-time school education. That stated, over the ten-year period 1997-2007, the numbers and proportions of primary only and secondary only schools have remained steady. In 1997, there were 178 primary only schools in Tasmania representing 64.3% of all schools (not including special schools). The corresponding data for secondary only schools were 47 schools representing 17.0%.



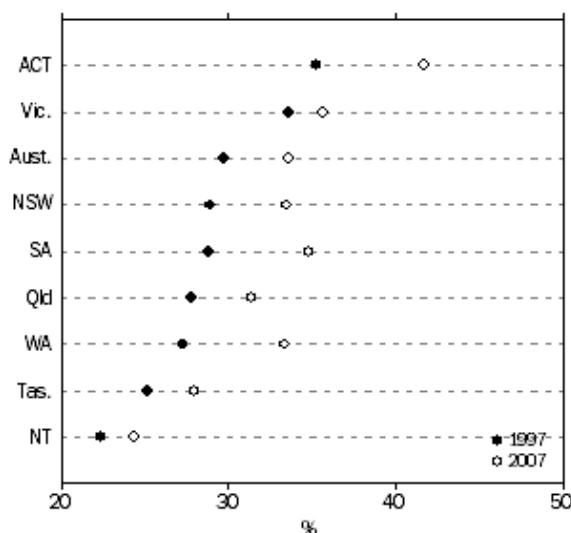
## SCHOOL STUDENTS

In August 2007, there were 81,859 full-time school students in Tasmania. From 1997 to 2007, the number of full-time students attending government schools fell by 6.3% (from 62,921 to 58,926), while the number attending non-government schools increased by 8.0% (from 21,236 to 22,933).

In August 2007, 55.0% of all full-time school students in Tasmania were attending primary schools (45,006); 45.0% were attending secondary schools (36,853).

In August 2007, apart from the Northern Territory (NT), Tasmania had the lowest proportion of full-time students attending non-government schools (28.0%). By contrast, the state or territory with the highest proportion was the Australian Capital Territory with 41.7%.

## PROPORTION OF NON-GOVERNMENT FULL-TIME STUDENTS



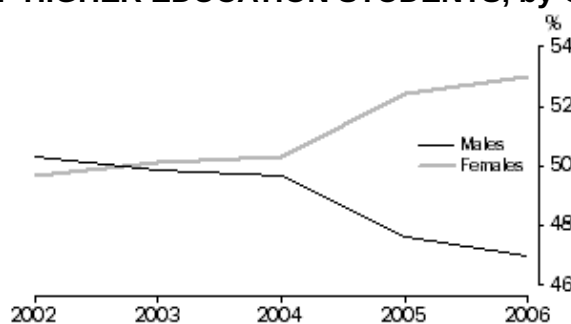
Source: Schools, Australia, 2007 (cat. no. 4221.0)

There were 1,648 part-time school students in Tasmania in August 2007, a significant decrease (42.8%) on the numbers in 1997 (2,883). There were 5,128 indigenous full-time school students, a significant increase (28.7%) on the numbers in 1997 (3,985).

## HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENTS

In 2006, there were 18,759 higher education students in Tasmania. Of these, 53.0% were female, 76.2% were undertaking a bachelor degree and 16.1% were undertaking postgraduate study. The most popular field of education study by Tasmanian higher education students in 2006 was 'society and culture' (23.2% of all students) followed by 'management and commerce' (18.2%).

### PROPORTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENTS, by Gender, Tasmania



(a) Excludes special schools.

Source: Dept of Education, Science and Training, Students, 2000-2006: Selected Higher Education Statistics

## AGE PARTICIPATION RATES

The school age participation rate indicates the proportion of the resident population who are at school. Occasionally, a participation rate can exceed 100%, mainly due to the enrolment of students in schools who are not residents of that state. The age participation rates for full-time Tasmanian school students in August 2007 were 99.6% for 14 year olds, 100.5% for 15 year olds, 84.7% for 16 year olds and 63.3% for 17 year olds.

Tasmania's participation rate for 17 year olds was not the lowest of any state or territory. It exceeded that of Western Australia (40.2%), the NT (44.9%) and Queensland (47.8%).

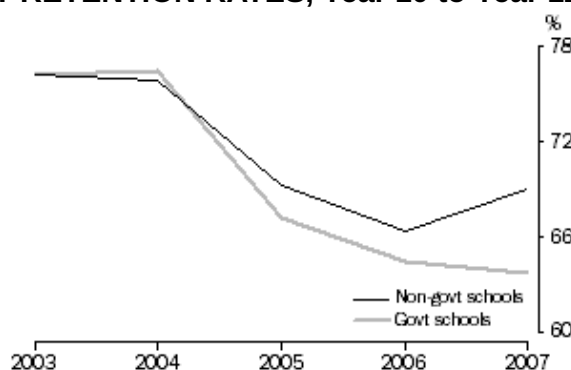
## APPARENT RETENTION RATES

The apparent retention rate is the number of school students in a designated level/year of education expressed as a percentage of their respective cohort group. To calculate the apparent retention rate of full-time secondary school students in Tasmania, the total of full-time students in Year 12 in August 2007 is divided by the number of full-time students in the base year, which is Year 7. The resultant figure is converted to a percentage. Care should be taken in interpreting apparent retention rates as the method of calculation does not take into account a range of factors. Please refer to paragraphs 21 and 22 of the explanatory notes in *Schools, Australia, 2007* (cat no. 4221.0).

In August 2007, the apparent retention rate of full-time Tasmanian students from Year 7/8 to Year 12 was 65.4%, compared to 58.6% in 1997. The apparent retention rate for females in 2007 was 73.9% and for males 57.4%.

In recent years, apparent retention rates for students in non-government schools have exceeded those for students in government schools. In August 2007, the apparent retention rate of full-time Tasmanian students from Year 10 to Year 12 was 69.0% for those in non-government schools, compared to 63.7% for those in government schools.

**APPARENT RETENTION RATES, Year 10 to Year 12, Tasmania**



Source: *Schools, Australia, 2007* (cat. no. 4221.0)

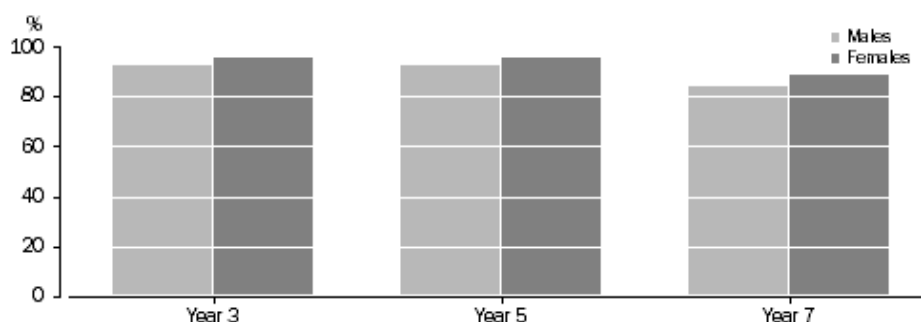
## STUDENTS ACHIEVING BENCHMARK

In March 1997, all state, territory and commonwealth education ministers agreed on the national goal: *that every child leaving primary school should be numerate and able to read, write and spell at an appropriate level.* The Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA) publishes national reports which include the results of testing conducted to identify the achievement of students in each of Years 3, 5 and 7 as measured against national benchmarks for reading, writing and numeracy.

In general, the results for Tasmania for 2006 show that the large majority of Years 3, 5 and 7 students are achieving at the benchmark level or better in reading, writing and numeracy. The highest percentage results for Tasmania were gained by Year 3 and Year 5 students for reading where both cohorts saw 94.1% of students achieving at the benchmark level or better; the lowest percentage result was gained by Year 7 for numeracy (80.4%).

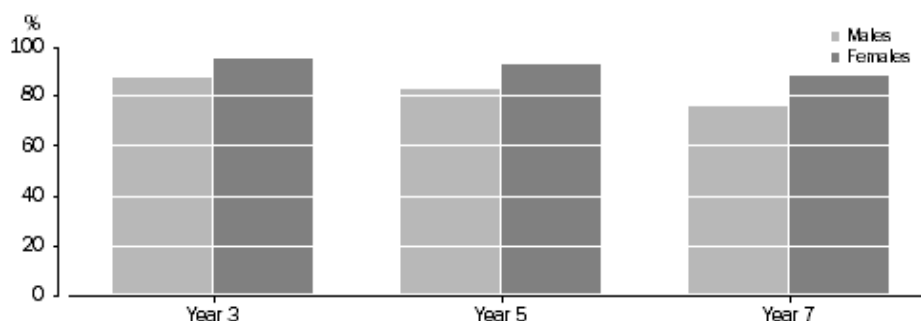
Across all categories and Years except one, Tasmanian female school students achieved better benchmark results than equivalent male school students. The one exception was for Year 7 numeracy where 80.4% of males achieved the benchmark or better compared to 80.3% for females.

## PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS ACHIEVING BENCHMARK IN READING, Tasmania, 2006



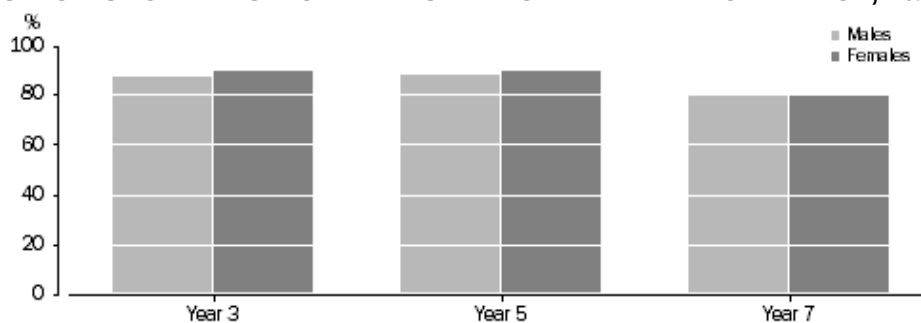
Source: National Report on Schooling in Australia  
Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA)

## PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS ACHIEVING BENCHMARK IN WRITING, Tasmania, 2006



Source: National Report on Schooling in Australia  
Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA)

## PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS ACHIEVING BENCHMARK IN NUMERACY, Tasmania, 2006



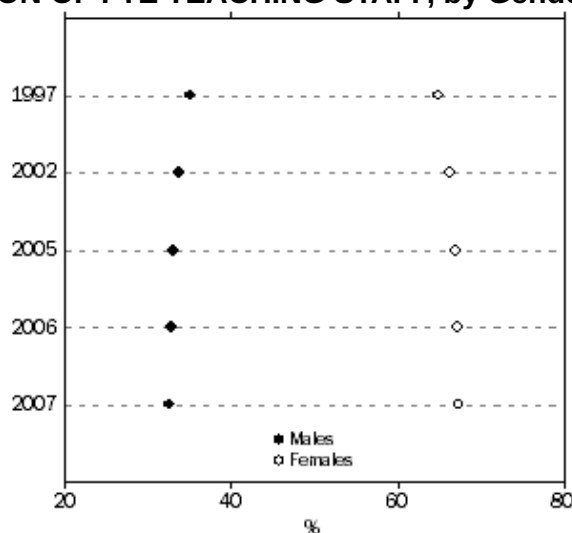
Source: National Report on Schooling in Australia  
Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA)

## SCHOOL TEACHERS

There were 6,927 teaching staff in Tasmania in August 2007. Of these, 4,850 were female and 2,077 were male.

There were 5,800 full-time equivalent (FTE) teaching staff in Tasmania in August 2007. Of these, 4,148 were at government schools and 1,652 were at non-government schools; 2,959 were at secondary schools and 2,841 were at primary schools; and 3,908 were female and 1,892 were male.

### PROPORTION OF FTE TEACHING STAFF, by Gender, Tasmania



Source: Schools, Australia, 2007 (cat. no. 4221.0)

The proportion of Tasmanian FTE female teaching staff has continued to rise, albeit slowly, since 1997. Conversely, the proportion of male staff has fallen. In August 2007, 67.4% of all Tasmanian FTE teachers were female; this compared to 64.9% in 1997. In August 2007, 32.6% of all Tasmanian FTE teachers were male; this compared to 35.1% in 1997.

Tasmanian primary schools have significantly more female teachers than male teachers. In August 2007, 79.5% of all FTE teachers in primary schools were female compared to 55.8% in secondary schools. The comparable figures in 1997 were 78.1% and 52.4% respectively.

Overall, in August 2007, the average number of FTE Tasmanian primary school students per FTE teacher was 15.8. In government primary schools the average was 15.6; in non-government primary schools it was 16.6. The equivalent figures for secondary schools were 12.8 students, with an average of 13.1 in government secondary schools and 12.1 in non-government secondary schools.

### SOURCES

Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA)

Schools, Australia (ABS cat no. 4221.0)

Further information can also be found on the Education and Training Statistics Theme Page of the ABS website.

## Housing and Construction

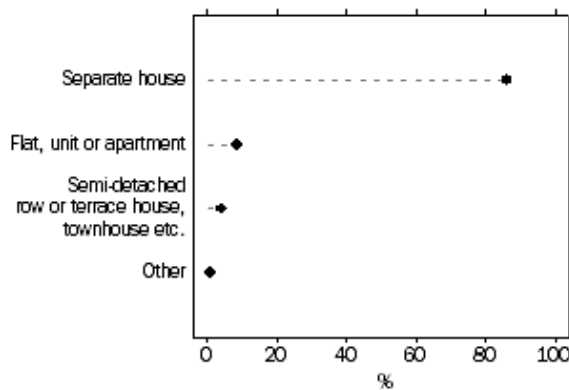


### HOUSING AND CONSTRUCTION

DWELLING STRUCTURE

According to the 2006 Census of Population and Housing, on 8 August 2006, there were 189,100 occupied private dwellings in Tasmania. Of these, 86.2% were separate houses, 8.6% were flats, units or apartments and 4.2% were semi-detached row or terrace houses, townhouses etc.

DWELLING STRUCTURE, Occupied private dwellings, Tasmania 2006

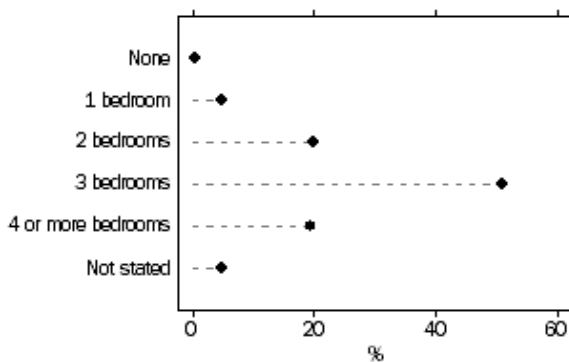


Source: 2006 Census of Population and Housing, Community Profiles

AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE

On Census night 2006, of the total occupied private dwellings in Tasmania, 51.0% had 3 bedrooms, 19.8% had two bedrooms, 19.4% had four or more bedrooms, and 4.7% had one bedroom.

AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE, Occupied private dwellings, Tasmania 2006



Note: 'None' includes bedsitters  
Source: 2006 Census of Population and Housing, Community Profiles

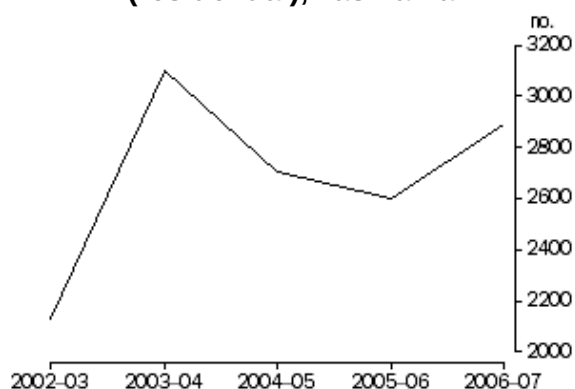
BUILDING APPROVALS

Residential

In 2006-07, there were 2,889 residential buildings approved in Tasmania. After two consecutive years of decline in the number of residential buildings approved, the 2006-07 estimates represented an increase of 11.1% on the 2005-06 estimate of 2,600, but a decline of 6.8% on the estimate of 3,101 in 2003-04.

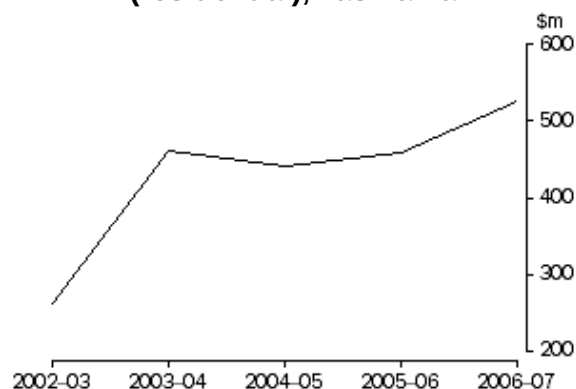
The value of Tasmanian residential buildings approved in 2006-07 stood at \$525.0 million, which was an increase of 14.3% and 100.3% on the 2005-06 and 2002-03 estimates respectively.

**NUMBER OF BUILDING APPROVALS  
(residential), Tasmania**



Source: Building Approvals, Australia (cat. no.8731.0)

**VALUE OF BUILDING APPROVALS  
(residential), Tasmania**



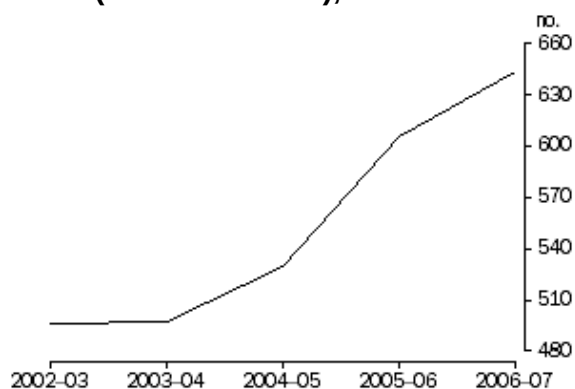
Source: Building Approvals, Australia (cat. no.8731.0)

## Non-residential

Non-residential building approvals in Tasmania have shown a constant increase in recent times. In 2006-07, there were 643 non-residential buildings approved. This was an increase of 6.3% on the 605 non-residential buildings approved in 2005-06, and an increase of 29.6% on the 2002-03 estimate of 496.

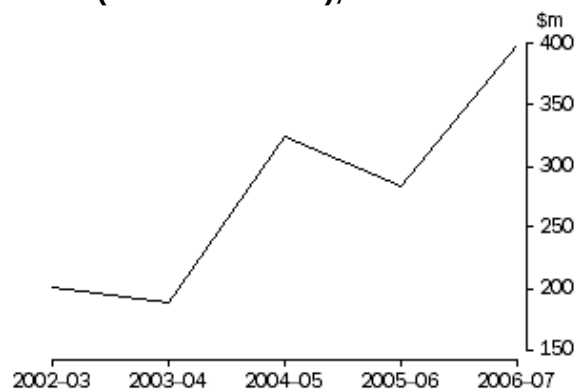
In 2006-07, the total value of non-residential buildings approved was \$398.5 million, a strong increase of 40.7% on the \$283.2 million of non-residential buildings approved in 2005-06 and a 97.8% increase on the 2002-03 estimate of \$201.5 million.

**NUMBER OF BUILDING APPROVALS  
(non-residential), Tasmania**



Source: Building Approvals, Australia (cat. no.8731.0)

**VALUE OF BUILDING APPROVALS  
(non-residential), Tasmania**

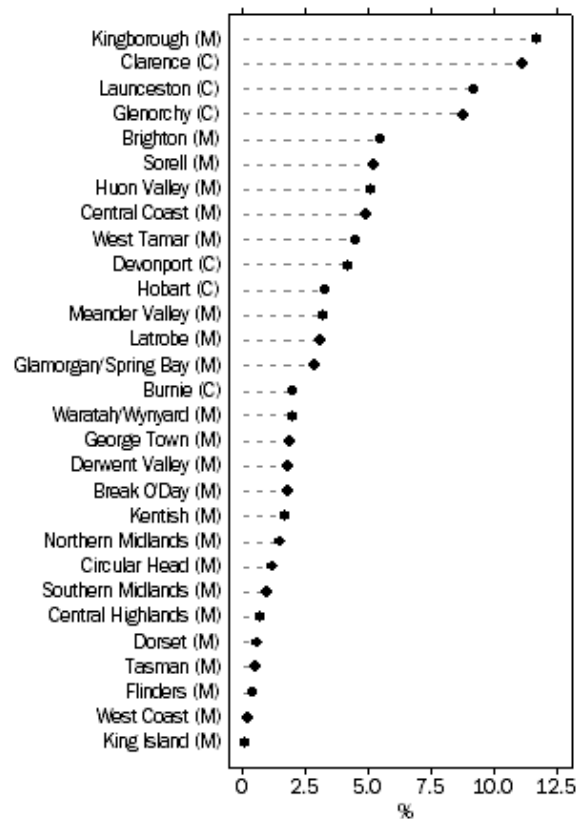


Source: Building Approvals, Australia (cat. no.8731.0)

## Building approvals by Local Government Area

In 2006-07, the local government area of Kingborough recorded the fastest growth in terms of new building approvals in Tasmania, with 11.7% of new building approvals, followed by Clarence (11.1%), Launceston (9.2%) and Glenorchy (8.8%).

## BUILDING APPROVALS, by local government area, Tasmania, 2006-07

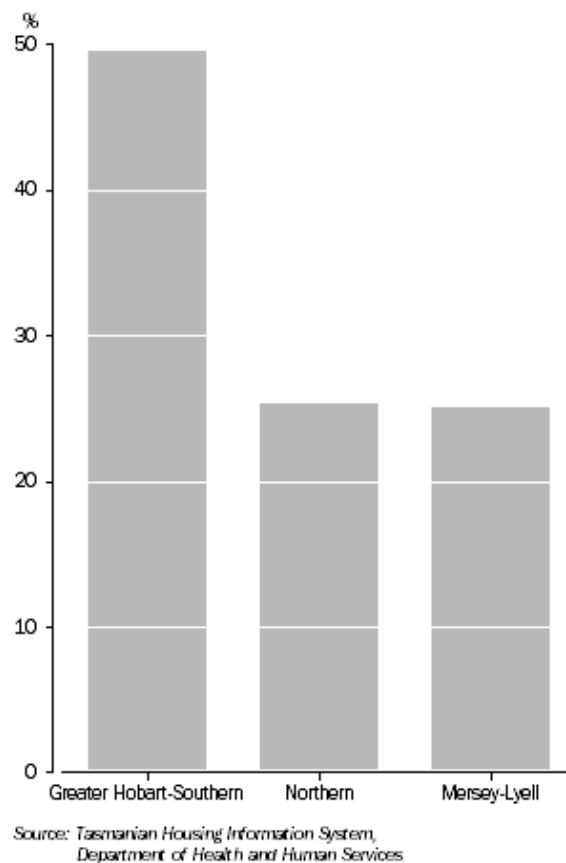


Source: Building Approvals, Australia (cat.no.8731.0)

## PUBLIC HOUSING

At 30 June 2007, there were 11,672 public housing rental properties in Tasmania. Of these, 49.5% were located in the Greater Hobart-Southern Statistical Division (SD), 25.4% in the Northern SD, and 25.1% in the Mersey-Lyell SD.

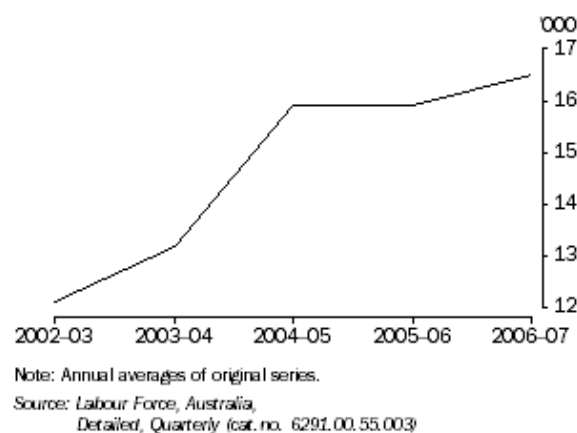
### PUBLIC HOUSING RENTAL PROPERTIES (Tasmania, 30 June 2007)



## EMPLOYMENT IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

For the last five years the construction industry in Tasmania recorded a steady increase in the number of people employed. In 2006-07, there were 16,500 people working in the construction industry in Tasmania. This represented an increase of 3.8% on 2005-06 and 36.4% on 2002-03. In 2006-07, the Tasmanian construction industry employed 7.4% of the state's total employed persons.

### EMPLOYMENT IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY, Tasmania



## SOURCES

2006 Census of Population and Housing (ABS QuickStats)

Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) (ABS cat. no. 1216.0)

Building Approvals, Australia (ABS cat. no. 8731.0)

Department of Primary Industries and Water, Tasmania

Housing Tasmania, Department of Health and Human Services

Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly (ABS cat. no. 6291.0.55.003)

Further information can also be found on the Housing Statistics Theme Page and the Construction Statistics Theme Page of the ABS website.

# Transport



## TRANSPORT

### ROADS

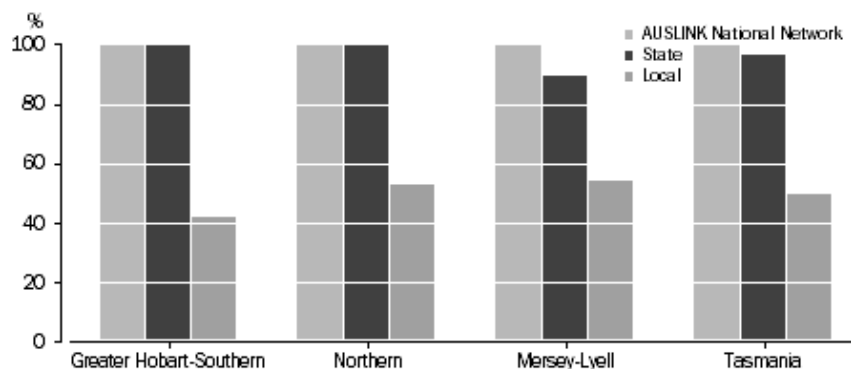
At 30 June 2007, Tasmania had 17,969km of government-owned roads. This included roads owned by national, state and local governments. It excluded private roads, unformed roads and tracks.

The AUSLINK National Network was responsible for 482km of roads, all of which were sealed. Of these, 88km (18.3%) were in Greater Hobart-Southern Region, 257km (53.3%) were in Northern Region, and 137km (28.4%) were in Mersey-Lyell Region.

The state government administered 3,264km of roads in Tasmania, 96.3% of which were sealed. Greater Hobart-Southern Region had 1,297km (39.7%) of these roads, all of which were sealed; Northern Region had 913km (28.0%), 99.3% of which were sealed; and Mersey-Lyell Region had 1,055km (32.3%), 89.2% of which were sealed.

Roads owned by local governments covered 14,173km, less than half (49.3%) of which were sealed. Greater Hobart-Southern Region had 5,226km (36.9%) of these roads, 42.0% of which were sealed; Northern Region had 4,919km (34.7%), 52.9% of which were sealed; and Mersey-Lyell Region had 4,028km (28.4%), 54.2% of which were sealed.

### GOVERNMENT-OWNED ROADS, Sealed



Source: Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources (DIER), Asset Information Group  
Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC), Measuring Council Performance, 2006-07

## MOTOR VEHICLES

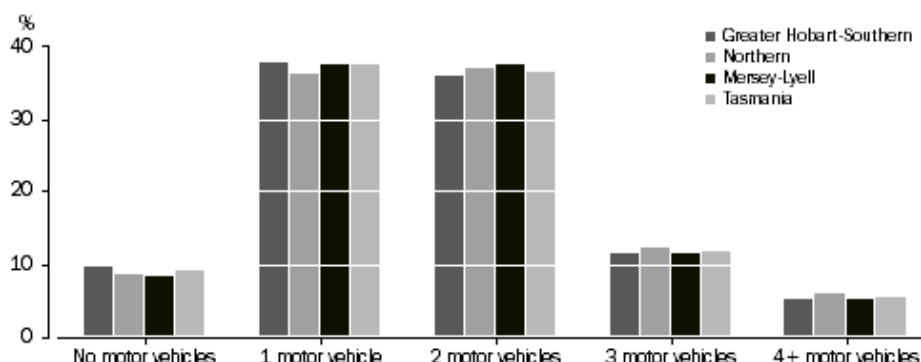
In 2006, there were 378,865 vehicles registered in Tasmania. Of these, 40.7% were manufactured between 1991-2000, 30.6% between 2001-2006, 22.4% between 1981-1990, 4.9% between 1971-1980, and 1.4% before 1970. Passenger vehicles accounted for 72.1% of all registered vehicles in Tasmania, followed by light commercial vehicles (20.0%), motor cycles (2.9%), heavy rigid trucks (2.1%) and campervans (1.0%).

According to the 2006 Census of Population and Housing, 37.4% of occupied private dwellings in Tasmania had one motor vehicle, 36.6% had two motor vehicles, 11.7% had three motor vehicles and 5.4% had four or more motor vehicles. Almost 1 in 10 occupied private dwellings (9.0%) did not have a motor vehicle.

Southern Midlands (11.1%) had the highest proportion of occupied private dwellings with four or more cars, followed by Central Highlands and Kentish (both 9.2%), Meander Valley (8.2%) and Dorset (8.0%).

Glenorchy (14.1%) had the highest proportion of occupied private dwellings with no motor vehicles, followed by Hobart (13.0%), Flinders (12.4%), Launceston (11.8%) and West Coast (11.3%).

## MOTOR VEHICLES BY DWELLINGS(a)



(a) Excludes number of vehicles not stated.

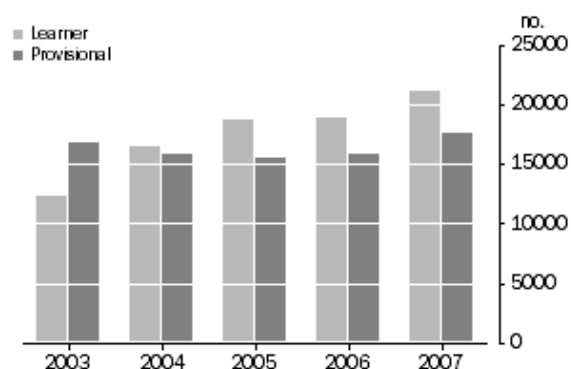
Source: 2006 Census of Population and Housing, Basic Community Profile, Table B29

## DRIVERS' LICENCES

The number of drivers' licences increased steadily, from 328,063 in 2003 to 352,062 in 2007, an increase of 7.3%. The number of full basic drivers' licences increased 4.8%, from 298,894 in 2003 to 313,299 in 2007. There was a dramatic increase (71.9%) in the number of learner

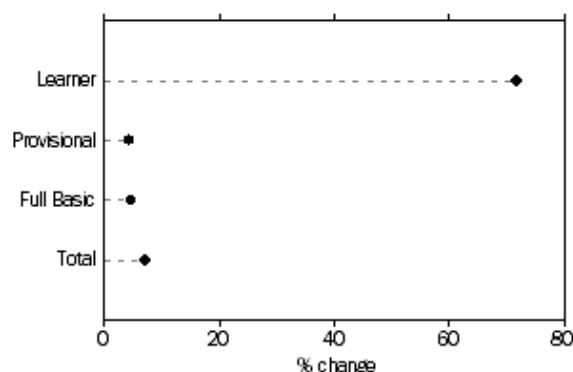
drivers' licences, from 12,348 in 2003 to 21,221 in 2007. During the same period, the number of provisional drivers' licences increased 4.3%, from 16,821 in 2003 to 17,542 in 2007.

### DRIVERS' LICENCES



Source: Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources (DIER), Transport Statistics, Historical Licence Data, 1987-2007

### DRIVERS' LICENCES, 2003-2007



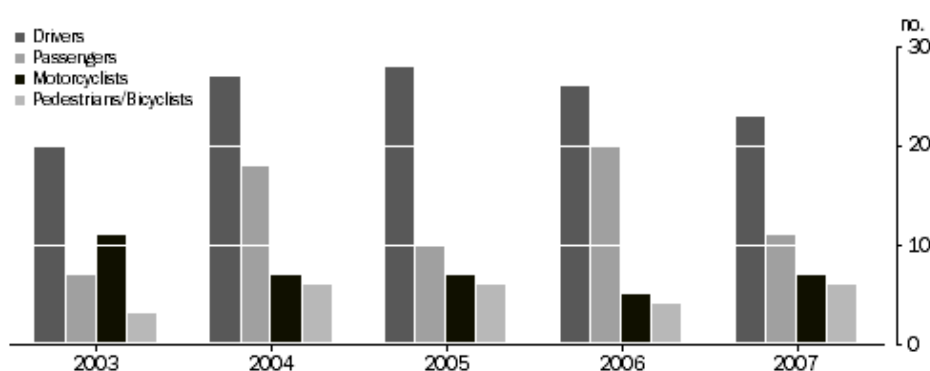
Source: Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources (DIER), Transport Statistics, Historical Licence Data, 1987-2007

## PERSONS KILLED OR INJURED IN ROAD CRASHES

The number of persons killed or injured in road crashes remained relatively unchanged during the 5 year period 2003-2007. Fatalities fluctuated between 41 and 58, while serious injuries decreased from 390 in 2003 to 332 in 2007. Minor injuries increased from 1,452 in 2003 to 1,502 in 2006.

In 2007, more than half of all road crash fatalities were drivers (56.1%), followed by passengers (26.8%), motorcyclists (17.1%) and pedestrians/bicyclists (14.6%).

### PERSONS KILLED IN ROAD CRASHES

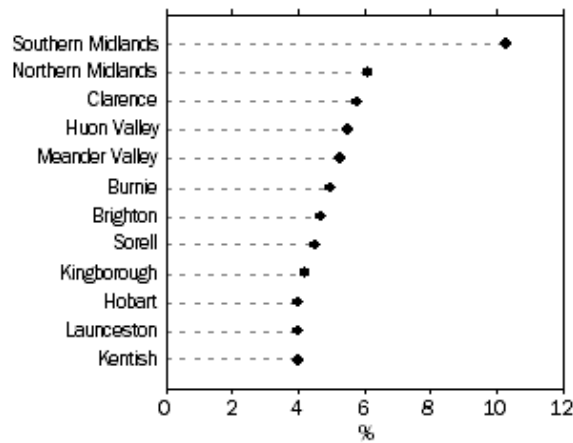


Source: Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources (DIER), Annual Report, 2007

In 2007, the highest proportion (50.1%) of serious casualties (fatalities and serious injuries) occurred in Greater Hobart-Southern Region, compared with Mersey-Lyell Region (25.1%) and Northern Region (24.8%).

Southern Midlands (10.3%) had the highest proportion of serious casualties, followed by Northern Midlands (6.1%), Clarence (5.8%), Huon Valley (5.5%) and Meander Valley (5.3%).

### SERIOUS CASUALTIES, by Top 12 LGAs, 2007



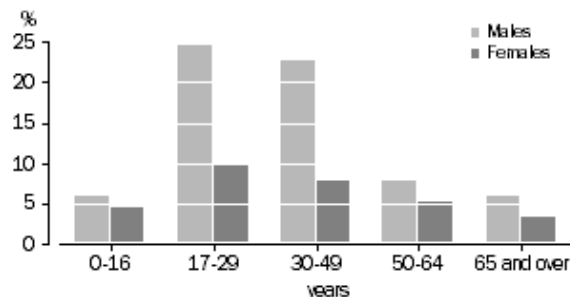
Note: Serious casualties refer to fatalities and serious injuries.  
 Serious injury means the person was hospitalised for 24 hours or more.

Source: Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources (DIER),  
 Crash Statistics, 2007

In 2007, 257 (67.8%) serious casualties were male. This was more than double the 122 (32.2%) female serious casualties. Male serious casualties outnumbered females in all age groups. Younger males, aged 17-29 years, were most likely to be a serious casualty (24.8%), followed by males aged 30-49 years (22.7%) and females aged 17-29 years (10.0%).

Over one third (34.8%) of serious casualties were aged 17-29 years, 30.6% were aged 30-49 years, 13.2% were aged 50-64 years, 10.8% were aged under 17 years, and 9.5% were aged 65 years and over.

### SERIOUS CASUALTIES, 2007

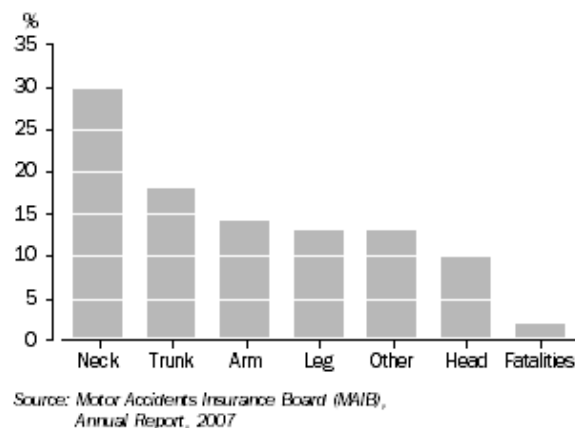


Note: Serious casualties refer to fatalities and serious injuries.  
 Serious injury means the person was hospitalised for 24 hours or more.

Source: Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources (DIER),  
 Crash Statistics, 2007

Neck injuries accounted for the highest proportion (30.0%) of injury claims lodged at the Motor Accident Insurance Board (MAIB) in 2006-07, followed by trunk injuries (18.0%) and arm injuries (14.0%). Fatalities accounted for 2.0% of all claims lodged.

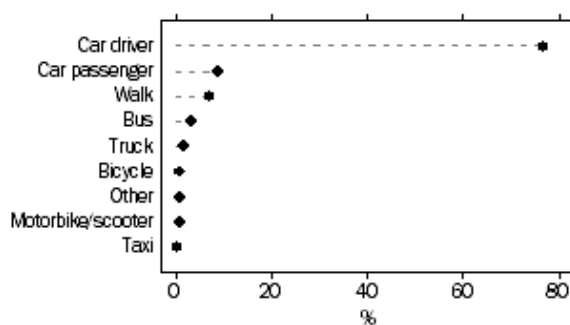
### INJURY CLAIMS, 2007



## METHOD OF TRAVEL TO WORK

According to the 2006 Census of Population and Housing, most employed persons aged 15 years and over in Tasmania (81.5%) used one method of travel to get to work, less than 1% used two methods of travel to get to work, 4.8% worked at home and 12.7% did not go to work. Of employed persons who used one method of transport to get to work, most (76.6%) travelled by car, as driver, followed by car, as passenger (8.9%) and walking (7.1%).

### METHOD OF TRAVEL TO WORK(a)(b)



(a) Employed persons aged 15 years and over.  
 (b) Excludes method of travel not stated.  
 Source: 2006 Census of Population and Housing:  
 Basic Community Profile, Table B45

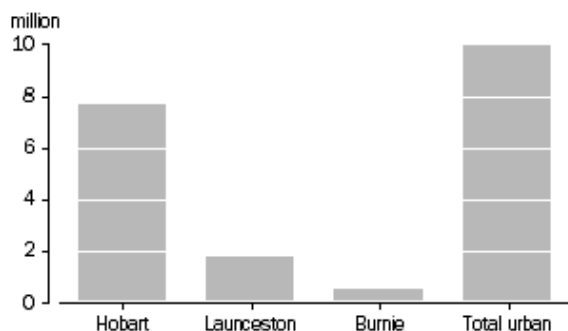
## BUS PASSENGER MOVEMENTS

There were 9.9 million Metro bus passenger trips in Tasmania in 2006-07, an increase of 4.2% in passenger trips from the 2002-03 figure of 9.5 million. Of the trips made in 2006-07, some 7.7 million (77.1%) were in Hobart, 1.8 million (17.8%) were in Launceston and 0.5 million (5.1%) were in Burnie.

During the five year period 2002-03 to 2006-07, Hobart experienced a 6.8% increase in bus passenger movements, while Launceston (-2.9%) and Burnie (-6.4%) both experienced a decrease.

### BUS PASSENGER MOVEMENTS(a), 2007

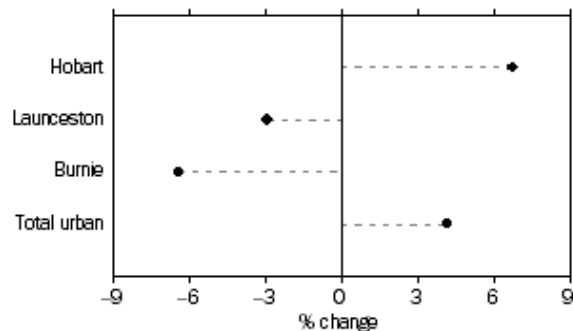
### CHANGE IN BUS PASSENGER MOVEMENTS(a), 2002-03 to 2006-07



(a) Includes transfer, charter and contract services.

Note: Hobart means all urban areas within 22km of the Hobart GPO other than Midway Point, Sorell, Richmond, Cambridge, Collinsvale, Kingston, Blackmans Bay, Margate and Snug. Launceston means all urban areas within 12km of the Launceston GPO other than Legana. Burnie means all urban areas in the municipality of Burnie, plus Wynyard and Ulverstone (except that Metro does not operate services within Ulverstone at times when passengers are travelling to/from school).

Source: Metro Tasmania Pty Ltd, Annual Report 2007



(a) Includes transfer, charter and contract services.

Note: Hobart means all urban areas within 22km of the Hobart GPO other than Midway Point, Sorell, Richmond, Cambridge, Collinsvale, Kingston, Blackmans Bay, Margate and Snug. Launceston means all urban areas within 12km of the Launceston GPO other than Legana. Burnie means all urban areas in the municipality of Burnie, plus Wynyard and Ulverstone (except that Metro does not operate services within Ulverstone at times when passengers are travelling to/from school).

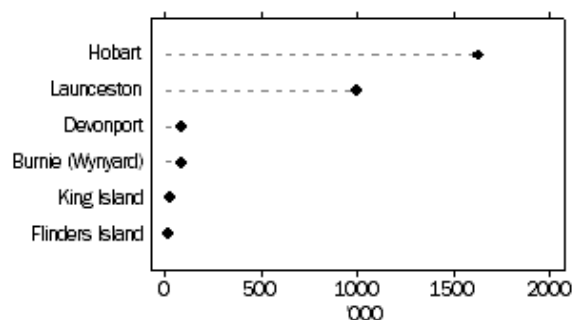
Source: Metro Tasmania Pty Ltd, Annual Report 2007

## AIR PASSENGER MOVEMENTS

In 2006-07, most air passenger movement in Tasmania occurred in and out of Hobart airport (1.6 million) and Launceston airport (996,000), compared with Devonport and Burnie (Wynyard) airports (both 88,000), King Island (30,000) and Flinders Island (18,000).

During the 5 year period 2002-03 to 2006-07, most of the main airports in Tasmania experienced a substantial increase in the number of passengers boarding or departing by major domestic and regional airlines. Flinders Island experienced the highest percentage change (157.1%), with an increase in air passenger movements from 7,000 in 2002-03 to 18,000 in 2006-07. For the same period, this was followed by King Island, with an increase from 16,000 to 30,000 (87.5%); Launceston from 574,000 to 996,000 (73.5%); and Hobart from 1.0 million to 1.6 million (61.3%). Devonport (-19.3%) and Burnie (Wynyard) (-1.1%) both experienced decreased air passenger movement during the same period.

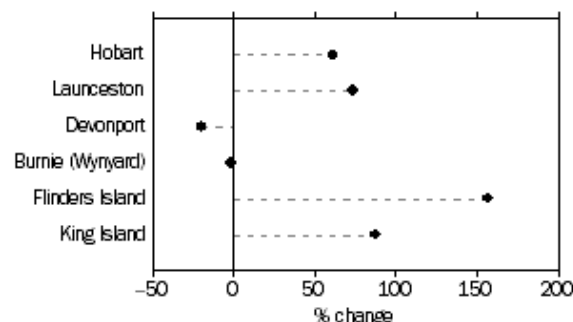
**AIR PASSENGER MOVEMENTS(a),  
Main airports, Tasmania, 2006-07**



(a) Scheduled domestic and regional airline services only. Charters are not included.

Source: Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics (BITRE), Airport Traffic Data, 1997-98 to 2006-07

**CHANGE IN AIR PASSENGER  
MOVEMENTS(a),  
Main airports, Tasmania, 2002-03 to 2006-07**



(a) Scheduled domestic and regional services only. Charters are not included.

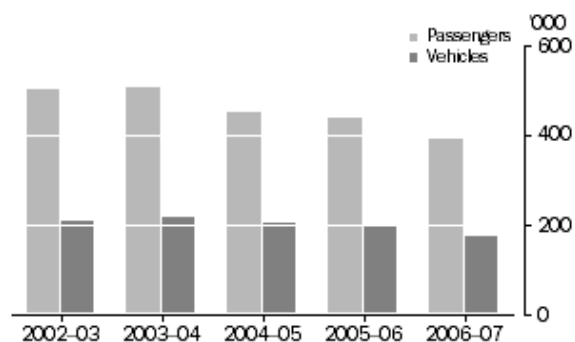
Source: Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics (BITRE), Airport Traffic Data, 1997-98 to 2006-07

## BASS STRAIT FERRY MOVEMENTS

In 2006-07, the TT-Line operated 825 voyages across Bass Strait, carrying 393,700 passengers, 177,800 vehicles and 77,700 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) of freight. This was a substantial decrease in the number of voyages, passengers and vehicles from the previous four

years due to the sale of Spirit of Tasmania 'III' in September 2006. This vessel began operating in January 2004 between Devonport and Sydney. Current services of Spirit of Tasmania operate between Devonport and Melbourne.

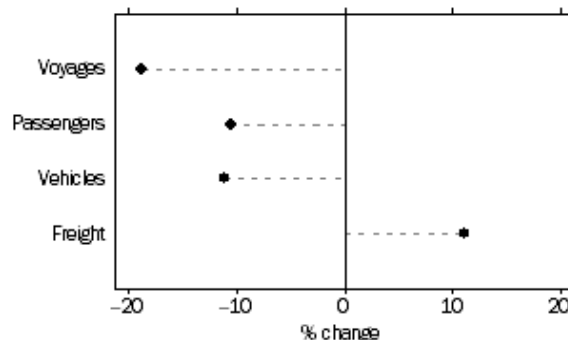
### BASS STRAIT FERRY MOVEMENTS



Note: Spirit of Tasmania 'III' operated from January 2004 to September 2006.

Source: TT-Line Annual Reports, 2002-03 to 2006-07

### CHANGE IN BASS STRAIT FERRY MOVEMENTS, 2005-06 to 2006-07



Note: Spirit of Tasmania 'III' operated from January 2004 to September 2006.

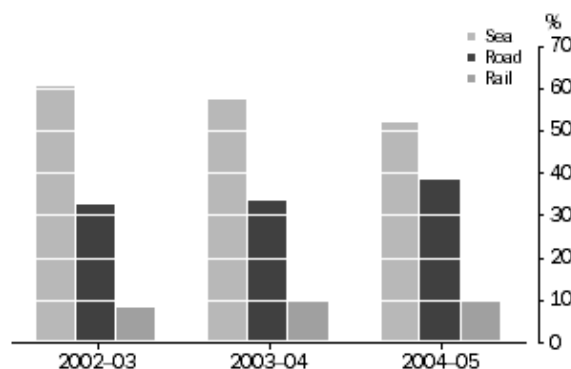
Source: TT-Line Annual Reports, 2002-03 to 2006-07

## FREIGHT ACTIVITY

### Domestic Freight

In 2004-05, a total of 8.9 billion tonne-kilometres was carried in Tasmania. Most domestic freight was carried by sea (51.7%), followed by road (38.2%) and rail (10.1%). From 2002-03 to 2004-05, the amount of shipped domestic freight decreased by 20.7%, from 60.4% in 2002-03 to 51.7% in 2004-05. The proportion of domestic freight carried by road increased almost 10.0%, from 32.3% to 38.2%. Transportation of domestic freight by rail also increased (12.5%) during the same period, from 8.3% to 10.1%.

### DOMESTIC FREIGHT, Tasmania



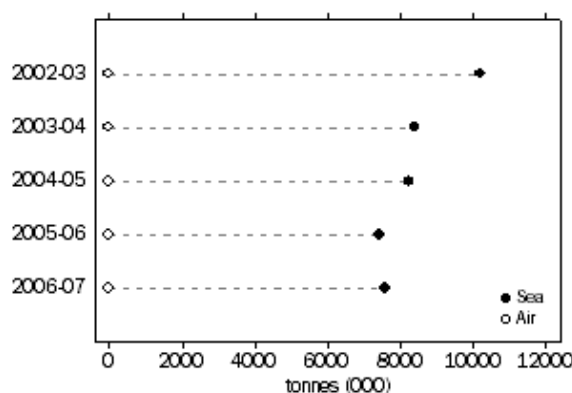
Source: Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics (BITRE), Australian Transport Statistics Yearbook, 2007

### International Freight

In 2006-07, most international freight was carried by sea (99.9%), compared with air (0.1%). Woodchips, iron ore and zinc were the leading commodities exported overseas by sea. At the same time lobster, abalone and cherries were the main Tasmanian produce exported overseas by air.

From 2002-03 to 2006-07 the amount of shipped international freight decreased by 25.5%, from 10.2 million tonnes to 7.6 million tonnes. During the same period, international freight by air increased by 18.5%, from 5,600 tonnes to 6,700 tonnes.

### INTERNATIONAL FREIGHT, Tasmania



Source: ABS data available on request

### SOURCES

2006 Census of Population and Housing (ABS Basic Community Profile, Tables B29 and B45)

Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA)

Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics (BITRE)

Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources (DIER), Tasmania

Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC), Tasmania

Department of Treasury and Finance (DOTAF), Tasmania

International Trade Data (ABS data available on request)

Metro Tasmania Pty Ltd

Motor Accidents Insurance Board (MAIB)

Motor Vehicle Census, Australia (ABS cat. no. 9309.0)

Spirit of Tasmania (TT-Line)

Survey of Motor Vehicle Use (ABS cat. no. 9208.0)

Survey of Motor Vehicle Use Data Cubes (ABS cat. no. 9210.0.55.001)

Further information can also be found on the Transport Statistics Theme Page of the ABS website.

## Index of Feature Articles



## INDEX OF FEATURE ARTICLES

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**31/07/08 | Adult Literacy in Tasmania, 2006:** Examines the Tasmanian results from the 2006 Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey, which collected and assessed information on the literacy skills of Australians across a range of literacy domains: prose literacy; document literacy; numeracy; and problem solving.

**30/04/08 | Ageing in Tasmania, 2006:** Australia has an ageing population, with Tasmania the oldest and fastest ageing of the States and Territories. This article explores what we know about Tasmania's ageing population through analysing a selected range of indicators from the 2006 Population Census.

**31/01/08 | Tasmanian Housing Indicators:** This article presents a range of housing indicators for Tasmania, drawn from a variety of ABS sources. It aims to illustrate the wider economic influences behind recent movements in the supply, demand and price of housing in Tasmania.

## About this Release

A compendium of summary statistical information about Tasmania. Information is presented by topic, with more detailed data in Excel spreadsheets. Contains summary commentary, tables, maps and graphs. Some non-ABS and regional data is also included. Topics covered include labour force, wages and prices, tourism, finance, state accounts, population, household and family characteristics, education, health and environment.

Replaces: Statistics, Tasmania (1384.6) and Regional Statistics, Tasmania (1362.6).

## Adult Literacy in Tasmania, 2006 (Feature Article)

### Adult Literacy in Tasmania, 2006

Introduction  
Literacy in Tasmania  
Change in Literacy Skill Levels, 1996-2006  
State and Territory Comparisons  
Age and Sex  
Educational Attainment  
Labour Force  
Income  
Conclusion  
Sources

### INTRODUCTION

A high level of literacy is required in today's world, to meet the challenges of a technology and information-rich society. Greater demands than ever are being placed on our ability to understand, interpret and integrate the world around us. As such, learning is no longer confined to school classrooms. The concept of 'life-long learning' acknowledges that considerable learning also occurs in the workplace, well beyond the years of formal education. Literacy skills accumulate over many years, and it is evident that the more these skills are used, the more literate a person becomes. However, literacy skills decrease markedly with age from approximately 45 years onwards. This may be associated with the lower education levels

generally attained by the older cohorts in our society, but may also be indicating that if literacy skills are not used, they will gradually decline.

Literacy skills contribute to the human capital of a community, thereby influencing economic growth. Higher levels of education and training can greatly improve an individual's employment potential and their potential to earn a higher income. As such, greater benefit may be had in improving the literacy skills of those with lower skill levels rather than extending the skills of those with higher levels in order to build a successful economic future for our state.

The 2006 Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey (ALLS) collected and assessed information on the literacy skills of Australians aged 15-74 years across a range of literacy domains: prose literacy; document literacy; numeracy; and problem solving. A health literacy scale was produced as a by-product of these. Literacy skills were assessed on a scale of 1-5, with Level 1 being the lowest and Level 3 deemed to be the 'minimum required for individuals to meet the complex demands of everyday life and work in the emerging knowledge-based economy' (Statistics Canada and OECD, 2005). People who attained a score of Level 1 or 2 were considered to lack the necessary literacy skills required to meet these demands.

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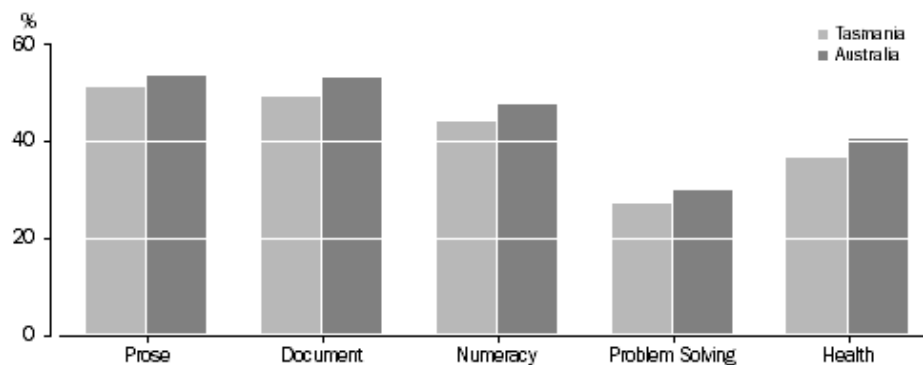
## **LITERACY IN TASMANIA**

According to the 2006 ALLS, the literacy skills of Tasmanians aged 15-74 years were consistently assessed as being below the national average in all domains. Around half of Tasmanians were assessed as having adequate prose (51.0%) and document literacy skills (49.3%), compared with 53.6% and 53.2% respectively for Australia. This meant that they had sufficient prose literacy skills to understand and use information from various kinds of narrative texts, including newspapers, magazines and brochures, and sufficient document literacy skills to locate and use information contained in such formats as job applications, payroll forms, transportation schedules, maps, tables and charts.

Less than half (43.9%) of Tasmanians were assessed as having adequate numeracy skills to effectively manage and respond to the mathematical demands of diverse situations, compared with 47.4% for Australia, and around one third (36.6%) were assessed as having sufficient health literacy skills to understand and use information relating to health issues such as drugs and alcohol, disease prevention and treatment, safety and accident prevention, first aid, emergencies, and staying healthy, compared with 40.5% for Australia.

Only about a quarter (27.0%) of Tasmanians were assessed as having sufficient problem solving skills to meet the complex demands of everyday life and work, compared with 29.9% for Australia. This literacy domain assessed goal-directed thinking and action in situations for which no routine solution is available.

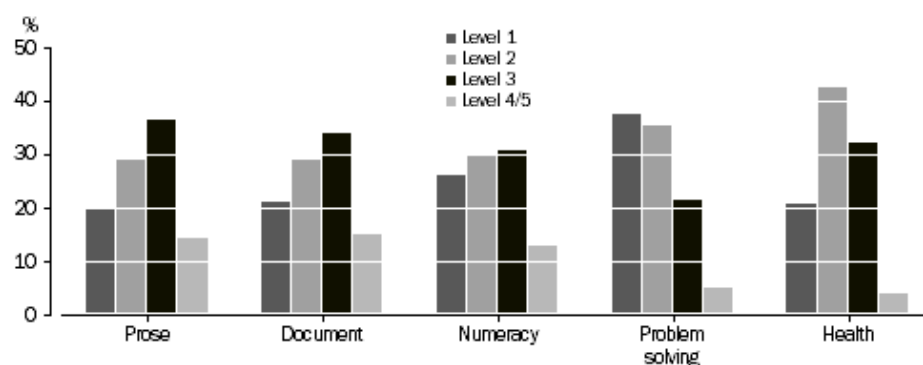
## **PROPORTION AT SKILL LEVEL 3 OR ABOVE, 2006(a)**



(a) Persons aged 15-74 years.

Source: Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey: State and Territory Tables, 2006 (cat. no. 4228.0.55.004)

### PROPORTION AT EACH SKILL LEVEL, Tasmania, 2006(a)



(a) Persons aged 15-74 years.

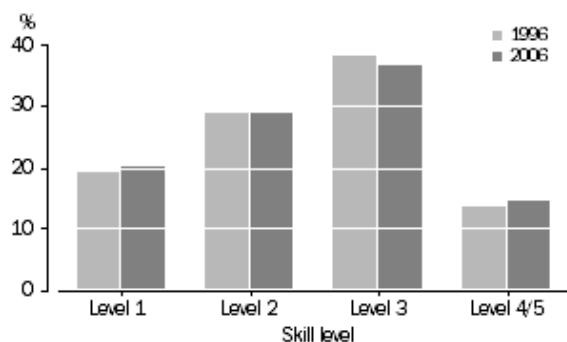
Source: Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey: State and Territory Tables, 2006 (cat. no. 4228.0.55.004)

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### CHANGE IN LITERACY SKILL LEVELS, 1996-2006

Of the five literacy domains available from the 2006 Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey (ALLS), only prose and document literacy were directly comparable to those derived from the 1996 Survey of Aspects of Literacy (SAL). The proportion of people attaining Level 3 or above for document literacy increased from 46.8% in 1996 to 49.3% in 2006, while for prose literacy the figure decreased slightly from 51.7% in 1996 to 51.0% in 2006.

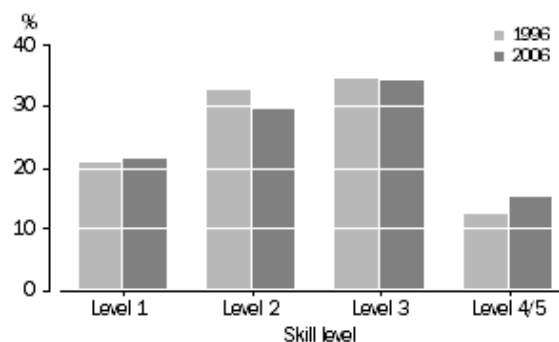
#### PROSE LITERACY, Tasmania(a)



(a) Persons aged 15-74 years.

Source: Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey: State and Territory Tables, 2006 (cat. no. 4228.0.55.004)

#### DOCUMENT LITERACY, Tasmania(a)



(a) Persons aged 15-74 years.

Source: Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey: State and Territory Tables, 2006 (cat. no. 4228.0.55.004)

## STATE AND TERRITORY COMPARISONS

According to the 2006 ALLS, Tasmania had the lowest levels of adult literacy in all domains. However, it is important to note that population dynamics such as age structure, patterns of migration, labour force status and educational attainment may account for some of the differences in literacy skill levels between the states and territories.

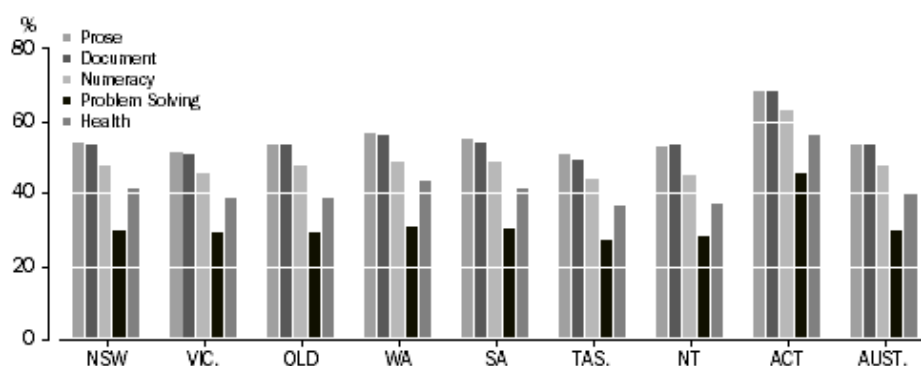
Tasmania's population has the oldest age structure of all the states and territories, and is ageing at a faster rate. In the 10 years since the 1996 Census, the population of Tasmania increased by 11,935 (2.6%). All age groups above 45 years experienced an increase in population, while all age groups below 45 years experienced a decrease. There was a significant exodus of young working age people, in the 25-29 years age group, between 1996 and 2006. Tasmania lost one fifth (20.6%) of its population in this age group during this time, largely due to interstate out-migration. This produced the double-edged effect, where Tasmania lost not only its young people, but also their skills and future potential.

Conversely, the largest increase in numbers over the same period occurred in the 55-59 years age group. This age group grew by 10,852, an increase of 49.7%. This was partly due to the 'Baby Boomer' cohort progressing into the older end of the working age population. It can also, in part, be attributed to interstate migration, as Tasmania continued to attract older people to take up the relaxed lifestyle of Australia's clean, green state. The combined effect of younger Tasmanians leaving the state and older people migrating from interstate has resulted in the population ageing at a faster rate than anywhere else in the country, which in turn has had a marked effect on the adult literacy outcomes for the State.

Tasmania also has the lowest retention rate (65.3%) of students progressing from Year 10 to Year 12 (75.6% for Australia), and usually has a higher unemployment rate than the national average.

At the other extreme, the Australian Capital Territory, as the nation's capital, attracts a high proportion of people with high levels of educational attainment. Salaries are high and unemployment is usually low. As a result, the ACT had the highest proportion by far of people aged 15-74 years attaining a literacy score of Level 3 or above for all literacy scales.

### PROPORTION AT SKILL LEVEL 3 OR ABOVE, 2006(a)



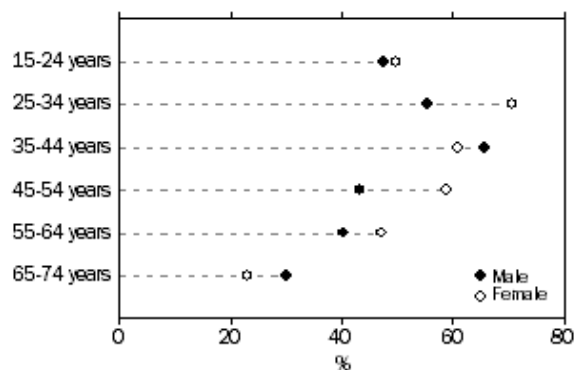
(a) Persons aged 15-74 years.

Source: Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey: State and Territory Tables, 2006 (cat. no. 4228.0.55.004)

AGE AND SEX

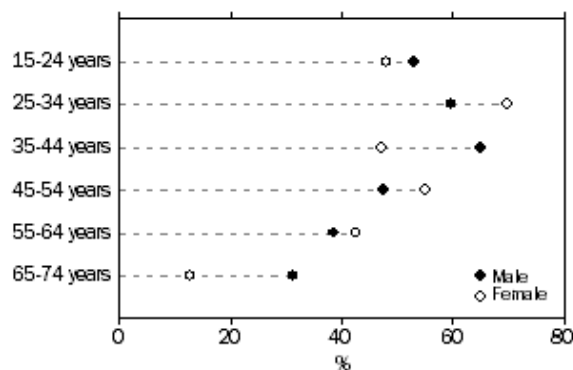
Younger people in Tasmania were likely to have higher literacy competency than older people. The highest proportions of people assessed at Level 3 or above in Tasmania were aged 25-34 years for all literacy scales, whilst the lowest were aged 65-74 years, indicating that older Tasmanians, particularly older females, were less likely to have the necessary skills to meet the complex demands of everyday life and work. This may be the result of older Tasmanians having lower levels of educational attainment, less access to work opportunities, and higher rates of disability (such as dementia). The 15-24 years age group had comparatively low levels of literacy compared with some of the older age groups. This was probably because many people in this age group had not yet completed their education and as yet had little work experience.

PROPORTION AT SKILL LEVEL 3 OR ABOVE,  
Prose Literacy, Tasmania, 2006



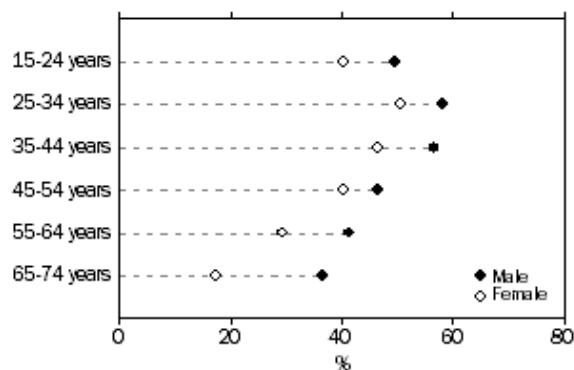
Source: Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey: State and Territory Tables, 2006 (cat. no. 4228.0.55.004)

PROPORTION AT SKILL LEVEL 3 OR ABOVE,  
Document Literacy, Tasmania, 2006



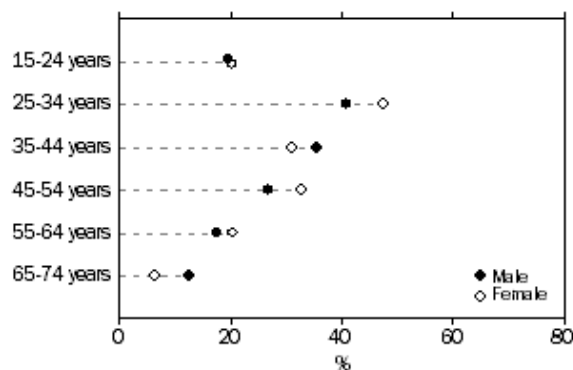
Source: Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey: State and Territory Tables, 2006 (cat. no. 4228.0.55.004)

PROPORTION AT SKILL LEVEL 3 OR ABOVE,  
Numeracy, Tasmania, 2006



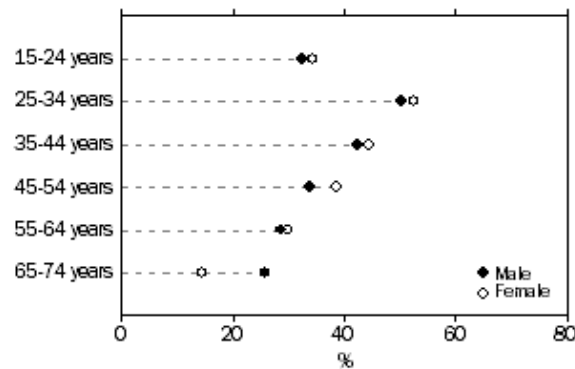
Source: Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey: State and Territory Tables, 2006 (cat. no. 4228.0.55.004)

PROPORTION AT SKILL LEVEL 3 OR ABOVE,  
Problem Solving, Tasmania, 2006



Source: Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey: State and Territory Tables, 2006 (cat. no. 4228.0.55.004)

PROPORTION AT SKILL LEVEL 3 OR ABOVE,  
Health Literacy, Tasmania, 2006



Source: Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey: State and Territory Tables, 2006 (cat. no. 4228.0.55.004)

A higher proportion of females in Tasmania attained literacy scores of Level 3 or above for prose literacy (53.8%), problem solving (27.7%) and health literacy (37.2%) compared with males (48.2%, 26.2% and 36.0% respectively).

A higher proportion of males attained literacy scores of Level 3 or above for document literacy (50.5%) and numeracy (48.9%) compared with females (48.1% and 38.9% respectively).

Of all females, those aged 25-34 years attained the highest proportion of scores at Level 3 or above across all literacy domains, performing particularly strongly in prose literacy (70.7%) and document literacy (69.9%). Proficiency in all literacy domains decreased markedly with age. Less than one quarter of females aged 65-74 years had sufficient literacy skills across all domains to meet the complex demands of everyday life and work.

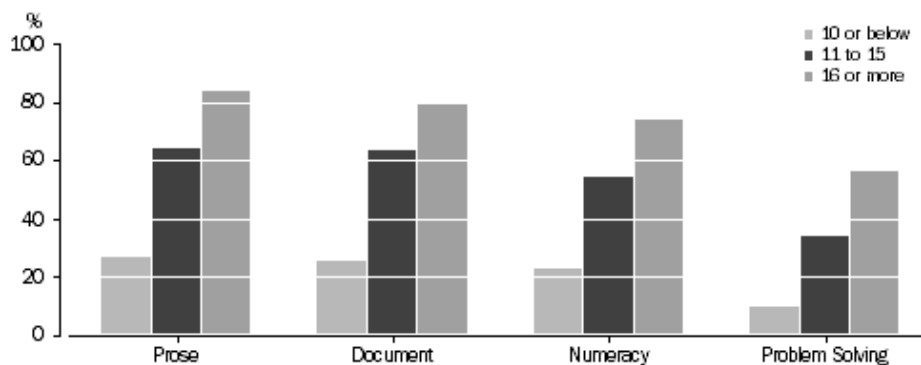
Literacy skills of males were most proficient between the ages of 25 and 44 years, with literacy skills decreasing from 45 years of age onwards. The proportion of males aged 65-74 years attaining scores of Level 3 or above was approximately double that of females of the same age across all literacy domains.

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## EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

There was a strong relationship between the number of years of formal education completed and levels of literacy skills. Those who had completed a greater number of years of formal education achieved higher literacy scores across all scales.

### PROPORTION AT SKILL LEVEL 3 OR ABOVE, by years of formal education, Tasmania, 2006(a)



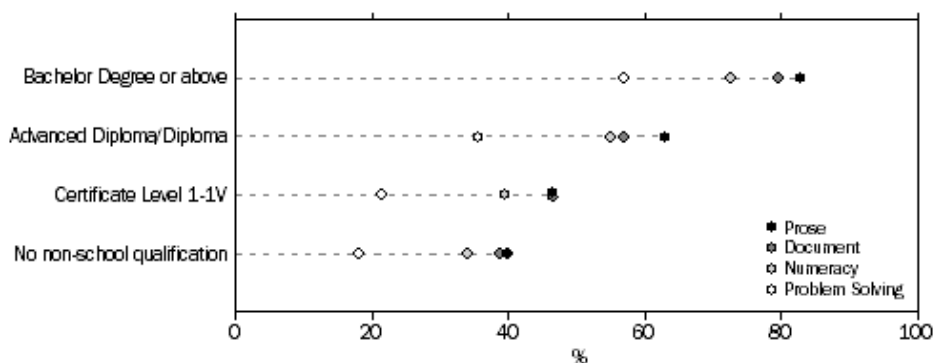
(a) Persons aged 15-74 years.

Source: Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey: State and Territory Tables, 2006 (cat. no. 4228.0.55.004)

People who had completed a non-school qualification attained higher literacy scores across all scales than those who had not. Of those who had completed a non-school qualification, 61.2% attained a score of Level 3 or above for prose literacy compared with 40.0% of those who had not completed such a qualification; 58.9% for document literacy compared with 38.9%; 52.7% for numeracy compared with 34.2%; and 35.3% for problem solving compared with 18.1%.

Literacy skill levels also increased by the level of non-school qualification. Those with a Bachelor Degree or above attained the highest scores for all literacy scales (82.9% prose literacy, 79.6% document literacy, 72.7% numeracy, and 57.1% problem solving). Those with 'Diploma' or 'Certificate' level non-school qualifications attained lower scores, but still out-performed those without any non-school qualifications.

#### PROPORTION AT SKILL LEVEL 3 OR ABOVE, by level of non-school qualification, Tasmania, 2006(a)

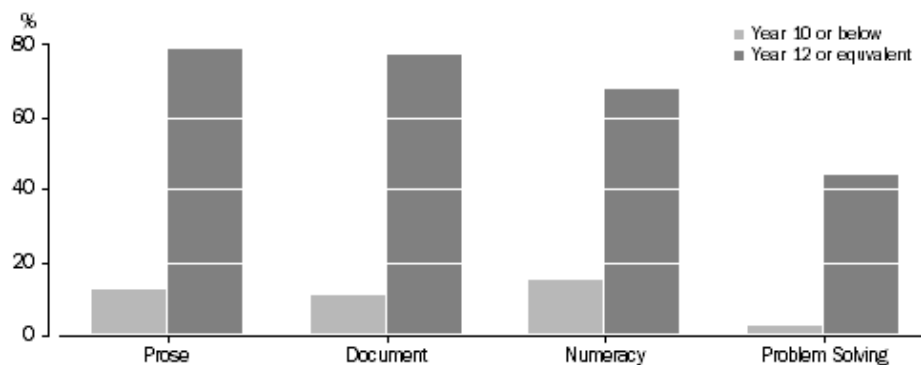


(a) Persons aged 15-74 years.

Source: Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey: State and Territory Tables, 2006 (cat. no. 4228.0.55.004)

Tasmania has the lowest retention rate (65.3%) in Australia for students progressing from Year 10 to Year 12 (75.6% for Australia). Marked differences in skill levels were evident across all scales between those who had completed Year 12 or equivalent and those who had completed only Year 10 or below. Of those who had completed Year 12 or equivalent, 78.9% attained a score of Level 3 or above for prose literacy, compared with 12.4% of those who had completed Year 10 or below; 77.2% for document literacy compared with 10.8%; 67.7% for numeracy compared with 15.0%; and 43.8% for problem solving compared with 2.7%.

#### PROPORTION AT SKILL LEVEL 3 OR ABOVE, by retention from Year 10 to Year 12, Tasmania, 2006(a)



(a) Persons aged 15-74 years.

Source: Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey: State and Territory Tables, 2006 (cat. no. 4228.0.55.004)

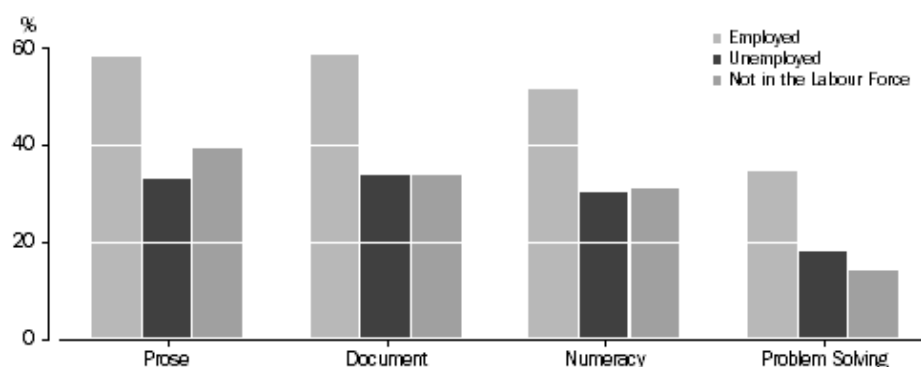
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## LABOUR FORCE

Employed people had the highest proportion of people assessed with literacy skills of Level 3 or above for all literacy scales (prose 58.4%, document 58.5%, numeracy 51.5% and problem solving 34.4%). These results were consistently lower than the Australian average for each literacy scale (prose 60.0%, document 61.0%, numeracy 56.0% and problem solving 36.0%).

Unemployed people had the lowest proportion assessed at Level 3 or above for prose literacy (33.1%) and numeracy (30.2%), and were equal lowest with those not in the labour force (33.7%) for document literacy. Those not in the labour force had the lowest proportion assessed at Level 3 or above for problem solving (13.9%).

### PROPORTION AT SKILL LEVEL 3 OR ABOVE, by Labour Force Status, Tasmania, 2006(a)



(a) Persons aged 15-74 years.

Source: Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey: State and Territory Tables, 2006 (cat. no. 4228.0.55.004)

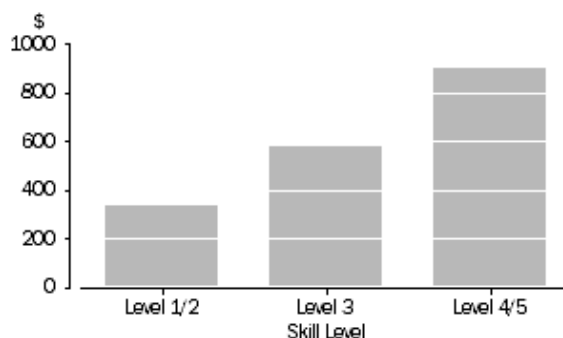
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## INCOME

Survey results highlighted the fact that those with higher levels of literacy skill command higher incomes. The median personal gross weekly income for those who attained literacy scores at Level 4/5 on the prose scale was almost three times higher (\$902) than that of people with scores at Level 1/2 (\$332). Those with scores at Level 3 on the prose scale had a median income of \$580. The median personal gross weekly income for Tasmania was \$485 (\$600 for

Australia).

### PROSE LITERACY, by median personal gross weekly income, Tasmania, 2006(a)



(a) Employed persons aged 15-74 years.

Source: Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey: State and Territory Tables, 2006 (cat. no. 4228.0.55.004)

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## CONCLUSION

While Tasmania had the lowest adult literacy skills in Australia, according to the 2006 Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey, improvement was evident in document literacy skill levels when compared with results of the 1996 Survey of Aspects of Literacy. Tasmania's ageing population may be in part responsible for the lower than average literacy skills due to limited educational and labour force opportunities previously available, particularly to females in the older age group, 65-74 years, and to the effects of interstate migration patterns. Younger females were revolutionising literacy skill levels for the 25-34 years age group, out-performing males in all but numeracy.

Literacy levels increased as the level of educational attainment increased. There were marked differences in skill levels across all scales between those people who had completed Year 12 or equivalent and those who had completed only Year 10 or below. This highlights the importance of improving retention rates of students in Tasmania to progress beyond Year 10. Further, those with sufficient literacy skills were more likely to be employed and earn higher incomes.

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Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey, Summary Results, Australia, 2006 (ABS cat. no. 4228.0)

Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey: State and Territory Tables, 2006 (ABS cat. no. 4228.0.55.004)

Aspects of Literacy: Assessed Skill Levels, Australia, 1996 (ABS cat.no. 4228.0)

Census of Population and Housing

Labour Force, Australia (ABS cat. no. 6202.0)

Labour Force, Australia, Spreadsheets (ABS cat. no. 6202.0.55.001)

Schools, Australia (ABS cat.no. 4221.0)

Statistics Canada and OECD, 2005, 'Learning a Living: First Results from the Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey', Ottawa and Paris

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